# Daily Report

## Supplement

# Soviet Union

## International Affairs

FBIS-SOV-91-003-S
Friday
4 January 1991

# Soviet Union
## SUPPLEMENT
### International Affairs

*FBIS-SOV-91-003-S* *4 January 1991*

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**NOTICE TO READERS:** As of 2 January 1991, television sourcelines in the DAILY REPORT will reflect how a station identifies itself. In most cases, this change eliminates the "Television Service" designation in favor of the station identification as broadcast. The presence of a new television sourceline reflects this change in policy, rather than the establishment of a new station or network.

**NOTICE TO READERS:** An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

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## United States & Canada

### U.S. Northern Early Warning System Criticized

*PM0401124591 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 4 Jan 91 First Edition p 3*

[Article by S. Panchenkov under the rubric: "International Notes": "We Must Not Complicate the Situation"]

[Text] In recent years U.S. military and political circles have begun to make extensive use of the thesis that the Soviet Union has a developed air defense system while the United States has not. Although it is obvious that the USSR air defense system was created out of necessity because of the threats of an air attack, including from the numerous U.S. air bases stationed around the Soviet Union's borders, there were not and are not any Soviet air bases near the United States' borders.

Nonetheless about three years ago the United States hastily began the deployment of a northern air defense component far beyond its national borders, an original part of which was the so-called "Northern warning system." This system is deployed on the territory of Alaska and northern Canada and is designed for the early detection of airborne targets approaching the United States from the north. It already consists of a substantial number of long-range radar stations produced on the basis of the most advanced technologies. Now it is planned to improve the system further by including in it several dozen more radar stations for the detection of low-flying targets.

In addition to the construction of radar detection posts, the United States is working actively to reequip a number of airfields on Canadian territory to base U.S. fighter-interceptors and AWACS aircraft.

The question arises, under present conditions, why was such a substantial air defense system needed and, moreover, one advanced so far outside U.S. national borders? Surely the threat of an airborne attack on the United States from the north has not increased? Surely the countries which for a long time opposed the United States in the military respect are not increasing their strategic potential?

No, nothing of the kind is happening. Moreover, as is well known, the Soviet side is prepared in principle for any talks with a view to the increasing simplification of the situation and the reduction of the level of military confrontation. There is no type of offensive arms whose reduction on a mutual basis the USSR would oppose. Agreement can be reached on everything. That is why it is natural to ask: Are the actions which are being undertaken by certain U.S. circles not an attempt to revert to the arms race and to the "cold war" which, incidentally, we consider ended?

### Trucks Bring U.S. Aid to Chernobyl Region

*PM0201160191 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 2 Jan 91 Second Edition p 1*

[TASS report: "Will There Be Looting Otherwise?"]

[Text] Four truckloads of medicines, food, and sanitary products from the United States—worth a total of $750,000—have arrived in Bryansk. This constitutes a free gift from the organization "American Aid", operating under the patronage of the U.S. President, to the population of the Bryansk region, who have suffered as a result of the accident at the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Station. To ensure that the goods reach their destination a commission has been set up comprising representatives from the soviets of people's deputies, health and education organs, and the department for combating the embezzlement of socialist property and speculation.

### New Ambassador Appointed to Canada

*PM2112111590 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 20 Dec 90 Union Edition p 7*

[Unattributed "News Item"]

[Text] The USSR president has appointed Richard Sergeyevich Ovinnikov USSR ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Canada.

The USSR president has released Aleksey Alekseyevich Rodionov from his duties as USSR ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Canada in connection with his retirement on pension.

## China

### PRC President Sends New Year's Greetings

*PM0101175591 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 2 Jan 91 First Edition p 6*

["New Year Message to the Soviet People" from PRC President Yang Shangkun]

[Text] President Yang Shangkun of the PRC conveyed through PRAVDA political observer V. Ovchinnikov, who is in China, the following text of New Year wishes to Soviet people and the readers of our newspaper.

"As is known, May 1989 saw the historic Soviet-Chinese summit which 'closed the door on the past and opened the door to the future' and brought about the complete normalization of our interstate relations on the basis of the five principles of peaceful coexistence. During the time which has elapsed since this meeting relations between our countries in the political, economic, scientific, technical, cultural, military, and other spheres have enjoyed stable and healthy development. Practice is showing that the development of friendly cooperation between China and the Soviet Union is not only in keeping with the fundamental interests of the peoples of our countries, but also promotes peace and stability in

Asia and the Pacific region and throughout the world. China and the Soviet Union are the world's two biggest socialist states. They are also permanent members of the UN Security Council and bear special responsibility for the maintenance of peace and tranquility throughout the world. In 1990 China and the Soviet Union developed ties and contacts at all levels, held consultations, and cooperated on bilateral problems and current international issues. This has played an important role in world affairs. We want to continue this cooperation in the new year and, together with the world community, contribute our share to the cause of peace and development.

"China and the Soviet Union are neighboring states. They are linked by mountains and waters. Traditional friendship exists between our peoples. Everything that is currently happening in the Soviet Union is, of course, attracting the close attention of the Chinese people. We are aware that the Soviet people are experiencing difficulties at present. We believe that thanks to their October Revolution traditions they will be able to summon up the strength necessary to resolve the complex problems facing them, however. Bidding farewell to the old year and welcoming the new year, on behalf of the Chinese people I sincerely wish the Soviet people success in the cause of stabilizing the situation in the country, in economic development, and in raising their living standards. At the same time, I express the wish that the relations of good-neighborly cooperation between China and the Soviet Union will further strengthen and develop in the new year to the benefit of our countries' peoples and peace throughout the world."

## Kuptsov's Talks in China Viewed Positively

*PM3112145390 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 30 Dec 90 Second Edition p 5*

[TASS report under general headline: "Official Reports"]

[Text] V.A. Kuptsov, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, who is heading a CPSU delegation to the PRC, met in Beijing 28 December with Qiao Shi, member of the CPC Politburo Standing Committee and secretary of the CPC Central Committee.

In the course of their conversation, which passed in a warm and comradely atmosphere, both sides expressed satisfaction with the successful progress in implementing the accords achieved in May last year in Beijing during the Soviet-Chinese summit.

The talks participants expressed themselves in favor of the further steady development of cooperation in all spheres, including the party sphere. Mutual interest was expressed in deepening interparty contacts.

V.A. Kuptsov reported on the main spheres of the CPSU's activity since the 28th congress and the party's work in consolidating the Soviet society.

The Chinese side displayed great interest in the processes under way in the USSR, and expressed the hope that the measures taken by the Soviet leadership with a view to stabilizing the situation will be successful and will serve the cause of strenthening socialism.

V.A. Kuptsov addressed the aktiv of Soviet establishments in the PRC.

## 1990 Relations, Cooperation With China Reviewed

### Envoy to China Interviewed

*OW3012224190 Moscow International Service in Mandarin 2200 GMT 28 Dec 90*

[Interview with Nikolay Solovyev, ambassador to China, by Beijing correspondent (Paboyang)]

[Text] [Solovyev] I think the most important achievement of 1990 is that both the Soviet Union and China have been unequivocally implementing the various agreements reached during Gorbachev's visit to Beijing last year and Chinese Premier Li Peng's visit to Moscow this year. Both sides have been absolutely serious and realistic in implementing the agreements. The Soviet Union and China have made earnest efforts to implement the agreement on complete normalization of relations. This is self-evident in every aspect, and everything is moving forward.

I feel that this is the most important achievement of 1990. I would like to highlight this fact: The foreign ministers of our two countries held six meetings this year. This is something unprecedented. This explains many issues. First of all, it indicates that our mutual trust is being consolidated, and that both sides feel the need to consult with one another, exchange views, and coordinate their stands.

I think that the other significant indicator in this passing year is that we trust each other even more, and we have become more interested in each other.

[(Paboyang)] From your point of view, in what way will Soviet-Chinese relations develop most positively in the next couple of years?

[Solovyev] In 1989-90 we established a good foundation for making further progress. It is expected that the leaders of our countries will soon exchange very important visits. We have already invited Jiang Zemin, general secretary of the CPC Central Committee, to visit the Soviet Union; a similar invitation has been extended to Yang Shangkun, president of the People's Republic of China. We have also invited China's Foreign Minister Qian Qichen to visit the Soviet Union. These will be extremely significant events in our bilateral relations. The aim of these visits is to solve specific issues in developing bilateral relations in all fields, including political dialogue and trade and economic relations.

Both the Soviet Union and China are currently undergoing economic reform. Although the natures of the two countries' economic reform are different, the objectives are the same, namely consolidating the socialist systems in our two countries.

I think this is very important. I would like to point out that China has supported us, has expressed understanding of our difficulties, and sincerely hopes we can overcome these difficulties. The agreements on developing trade, economic, and scientific-technological ties and the agreement about cooperation in scientific-technological research all demonstrate China's sincerity in helping us overcome difficulties. China believes that these difficulties are only temporary.

[(Paboyang)] Last year, the Governments of the Soviet Union and China signed in Moscow an agreement on mutual disarmament and the guiding principles for enhancing military trust along the Soviet-Chinese border. Comrade ambassador, what possibilities do you think this agreement will create?

[Solovyev] In line with the agreement reached during Gorbachev's visit to China and Li Peng's visit to the Soviet Union, we have started talks in this respect. I would also like to point out that we are holding a series of talks on border issues. I think the talks on enhancing trust in the military field has very great significance as it concerns the creation of an atmosphere of trust along the Soviet-Chinese border. This has very great significance. I think the creation of a friendly atmosphere along the 7,000-km border will become a historic event in our bilateral relations. We must point out that the talks are proceeding satisfactorily. Of course, the issue is not a simple one, because we must determine the contents and topics of the talks and decide on the types of weapons to be reduced. Nevertheless, the talks are proceeding in a totally realistic and constructive manner. This is most important, and it guarantees the success of the talks. I wish to point out that the trust between our two countries is consolidating.

This is why we expect the talks to be successful. In the new year, we will broaden trade and economic ties between our two countries. Possibilities in this respect are enormous for our two countries. We will do everything possible to expand ties in this regard. I would like now to focus on the development of border trade between our countries. Border trade is developing very rapidly. We also know that China is also keenly interested in developing ties with our coastal areas, the Khabarovsk region, and (?Irkutsk) Oblast. We have the same wishes. We must seriously consider this issue so that the border trade between our countries can develop steadily.

[(Paboyang)] Our Chinese program has many Chinese listeners. Will you say a few words to our listeners on the eve of the new year?

[Solovyev] We are about to enter 1991. I am optimistic about the new year. I wish all listeners of Radio Moscow success and happiness. Let us work hard together to bring true good neighborliness between us. Let us work with concerted efforts to fulfill the task facing the Soviet and Chinese peoples, namely maintaining peace in Asia. This will be of vital significance to our offspring.

## Chinese Envoy Comments

*OW3012161?90 Moscow International Service in Mandarin 2200 GMT 28 Dec 90*

[Interview with Yu Hongliang, Chinese ambassador to the Soviet Union, by our station reporter (Galibov) in Beijing; date not given]

[Text] [(Galibov)] a. What are the salient features of bilateral relations between the Soviet Union and China in 1990?

b. In what aspects will there be positive development in the relations between the Soviet Union and China in the next couple of years?

c. What are the possibilities that may be created by the Soviet and Chinese Governments with regard to mutual disarmament and the agreement on guiding principles for strengthening military training along Soviet and Chinese borders?

[Begin Hu Hongliang recording] First, I would like to extend new year's greetings to the listeners of the Soviet broadcasting station. May all the wishes of the comrades and friends of China and the Soviet Union be fulfilled in the new year, and may we make new and greater achievements in various aspects. I review with satisfaction the development of bilateral relations between our countries. On the whole, we can say that the development of relations between our countries has been smooth, normal, sound, and positive. In other words, it has been a good year. Through our joint efforts, we have made progress in various fields in the past year.

We have made contacts at the highest level. Last year, Comrade Gorbachev visited China, and this spring Premier Li Peng successfully visited the Soviet Union. During these visits, an agreement on economic cooperation between China and the Soviet Union covering the program for long-term cooperation and a series of important documents were signed. These are of great significance in boosting and propelling the development of bilateral relations.

In the past year, apart from continuously maintaining sound cooperation in the economy, science and technology, and culture, our countries have also resumed military cooperation. Of course, this cooperation is based on ensuring the security of our countries and safeguarding peace. To this end, Comrade Liu Huaqing, vice chairman of China's Central Military Commission [title as heard], recently led a delegation to the Soviet Union. Comrade Belousev, vice premier of the Soviet Government [title as heard] also recently led a delegation to China.

To promote mutual understanding of experiences in reform in the two countries, workers of our two parties at various levels also exchanged visits last year. Comrade Ding Guangen, alternate member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China, led a delegation to the Soviet Union. Comrade Pugo, secretary of the Central Committee of the CPSU, led a delegation to China. Comrade Peng Chong, vice chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, led a delegation to the Soviet Union. The Supreme Soviet of the Soviet Union sent a delegation to China. These visits have been conducive to enhancing mutual understanding and drawing on each other's experiences in reform.

In the matter of international cooperation, I would like to cite an example clear to you all. In the past year, foreign ministers of the two countries held talks on five occasions. This has contributed to mutual understanding and cooperation in international affairs.

During Comrade Li Peng's visit to the Soviet Union, the two countries signed a draft agreement on the guiding principles of troop reductions and confidence building between the military of the two countries on our borders. Based on this agreement, both sides held talks which made progress and reached a common understanding.

Diplomatic relations between China and the Soviet Union have been normal for some time. Moreover, it is the common wish of the people of our countries to establish long-term, stable, friendly, and goodneigborly relations. For this reason, we should reduce Armed Forces along our borders to a bare minimum, a move which would coincide with the development of this relationship. In the past, when relations between China and the Soviet Union were distorted, the people of the two countries did not benefit. The foreign minister of the Soviet Union has said that this cost them 200 billion rubles. Likewise, China has also spent a lot of money on this. If this sum of money had been used to develop the economy and raise the standard of living of the people, how great it would have been.

Therefore, I maintain that we must learn from the lessons of history. I firmly believe that success can be achieved in talks through efforts by both sides. The peoples of China and the Soviet Union have a traditionally good relationship. The peoples of our two countries will support the development of goodneighborly relations between our countries. I believe that our countries should respect each other and jointly abide by principles and understandings reached by our leaders, namely the joint communique issued by China and the Soviet Union after Comrade Gorbachev's visit to China. We can mutually draw on experiences in reform of both sides; relations between China and the Soviet Union are bound to further develop and flourish.

I would like to express my hope that our Chinese listeners, as well as comrades and the masses in the Soviet Union will, in their respective posts, make positive contributions to the development of the relations between China and the Soviet Union. [end recording]

### Past Visits, Events Summarized

*OW0101174691 Moscow International Service in Mandarin 1000 GMT 31 Dec 90*

[From the "Current Events and Commentaries" program]

[Text] Today's program on major events in Soviet-Chinese relations will be a little different. On the eve of New Year's Day, we would like to review major events of the past year.

The major events were: In April, Chinese Premier Li Peng visited the Soviet Union. That was the first visit by a Chinese leader to the Soviet Union in 26 years. Both sides reiterated that they hoped to develop goodneighborly relations on the basis of universally-recognized principles of international intercourse. As a result of the visit, a series of intergovernmental agreements were signed, which determined the principles of long-term bilateral cooperation in economic, scientific and technological, and other fields; and signified the starting point for cooperation in the peaceful use of outer space and nuclear energy, as well as for demilitarization of Soviet-Chinese border.

In the past year, the Soviet Union and China continued to hold political consultations on urgent international issues. In September and November, foreign ministers of the two countries held work meetings in Harbin and Urumqi to discuss the Gulf and Cambodian issues and expressed similar views on resolving the Gulf crisis. They also reached mutual understanding on the Cambodian issue and pointed out that the Korean cause has entered a decisive stage.

The Soviet and the Chinese Governments began to implement agreements on reducing Armed Forces along the Soviet-Chinese border and on spreading military trust which were signed during Chinese Premier Li Peng's visit to the Soviet Union. In the negotiations in September and December, they began to discuss the types of weapons to be reduced, mutual exchanges of documents, establishment of supervisory organs, and other issues. This will be an important contribution to the establishment of goodneighborly relations and to the relaxation of military tension in the Asian-Pacific region.

During the past year, the Soviet Union and China continued to delimit their common boundary and set 90 percent of their borders through discussions. The meeting of the mixed working groups of the two countries began drafting laws for work along the border.

During this year, the Soviet Union and China increased their import and export volumes. According to preliminary statistics, trade volume in 1990 reached $3 billion.

and measures were taken to expand economic connections to give them much greater flexibility. In July this year, the Soviet-Chinese Government economic, trade, scientific and technological cooperation mixed committeee meeting was held in Beijing. Both sides signed agreements on encouraging and mutually protecting investments and avoiding double taxation. In October, representatives of the two countries again adopted an agreement in Moscow on transition to the system of accounting based on freely-convertible currencies in bilateral trade starting next year.

In December, a delegation from the Soviet State Committee for Science and Technology visited Beijing, which further promoted Soviet-Chinese cooperation. During that visit, both sides signed agreements on 16 large scientific projects, as well as documents on scientific and technological policy, scientific research, and cooperation in [words indistinct]. Both sides also decided, through discussion, to cooperate in policy on science and technology and in publicizing this policy and organizing efforts to implement it.

Lavrov, chairman of the USSR's State Committee on Science and Technology, led the delegation. He maintained that the results of the visit have pushed scientific and technological cooperation between the two countries to a new stage.

In this year, the Soviet Union and China laid a transcontinental railway, located between the Friendship Station of the Soviet Union and the Alashankou Station of China. This is part of the 10,000-km trunk railway line linking Europe to coastal areas of east China. It will open to traffic in 1992. By then, traveling distance between Moscow and Beijing will be considerably reduced. This railway will help develop cooperation between border regions of the Soviet Union and China.

In 1990, cultural exchanges between the two countries became more frequent. Film workers, dramatists and publishers expanded their contacts. The Shanghai Beijing Opera Troupe performed in the Soviet Union, while the Soviet Circus won warm applause from spectators in Beijing, Shanghai, and other Chinese cities. This was the first performance by a Soviet circus in China in 30 years.

Finally, we would like to mention that the Soviet president appointed Solovyev as new ambassador to China. While he is still a new ambassador, he plans to make continued efforts to consolidate Soviet-Chinese relations, as well as mutual understanding and friendship between the peoples of the two countries.

### Economic Relations Examined

*OW2512192790 Moscow International Service in Mandarin 1000 GMT 22 Dec 90*

[Interview with (Buliyev), an official of the Soviet Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations, by station reporter (Mininko); place and date not given; from the "Along the Road of Friendship and Cooperation" program"—(Buliyev's) comments are recorded in Russian with superimposed Mandarin translation]

[Text] [Announcer] The year 1990, which is coming to an end, has been a year for the Soviet Union and China to expand and consolidate cooperation in various fields, especially in economic relations and trade. Station reporter (Mininko) has asked (Buliyev), a responsible official of the Soviet Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations, to give a preliminary assessment of the exchanges and developments in Soviet-Sino economic relations and trade in 1990.

[(Buliyev)] In accordance with a protocol signed by the two governments on exchange of goods and methods of payments, the two countries have supplied each other with commodities. As in previous years, the year 1990 has provided underpinnings for Soviet-Sino cooperation. The volume of commodities exchanged under the protocol has surpassed that in 1989, totaling 5,230 million Swiss francs. A salient feature of the exchange of commodities between the Soviet Union and China is that more than half of the commodities supplied to China by the Soviet Union have been machinery, equipment, railway cars, electric cars, compact cars, and heavy-duty trucks. Soviet-made aircraft and helicopters make up the bulk of China's swelling civil aviation fleet. This year, the Soviet Union has provided China with two types of aircraft—the Yak-42 and the Il-76—and Mi-17 helicopters. Daily necessities and foodstuffs have been China's main exports to our country. Clothing, sporting goods, milk bottles, fur coats, and woolen products have enjoyed a good reputation among major Soviet customers and sold extremely well on the Soviet markets.

Meanwhile, the proportion of machine-made products to China's exports to the Soviet Union has grown in recent years. Traditionally, we have imported automobiles, storage batteries, and handicrafts from China. Soviet-Sino ship renovation joint projects have proceeded well at China's shipyards.

Supplying goods in accordance with the protocol between the two governments is the basic, but not the only, component of our bilateral trade. Border trade and interregional economic and trade exchanges have played an increasingly active role during the year that is coming to a close. This trend is likely to evolve rapidly. The value of commodities exchanged in border trade is expected to top one billion Swiss francs this year. For the time being, trade is the basis for cross-border and interregional exchanges. Non-traditional cooperation has definitely taken shape, however. This includes cooperation in production, the establishment of joint ventures, and the dispatch of Chinese workers to work at Soviet enterprises. There are now approximately 50 Soviet-Sino joint ventures.

One more fact to be noted is that a major trait of the year that is coming to an end has been China's successful construction of the last section of the railway in northwest Xinjiang with Soviet loans. With the construction

of railway sections across the Soviet-Sino border, the great Silk Road will be revived, providing the shortest rail route between Asia and Europe.

### Potential Said Not 'Fully Tapped'

*OW2712214690 Moscow International Service in Mandarin 1000 GMT 26 Dec 90*

[Text] According to information released by the department in charge of economic relations with foreign countries, the volume of Soviet-Chinese barter trade increased 12 times in the 1980's, reaching $8 billion in 1990. Commenting on this news, (Petalenko), noted Soviet Sinologist and director of the Oriental Studies Institute in the USSR Academy of Sciences, expressed satisfaction with the development of economic cooperation between the Soviet Union and China.

He pointed out, however, that the two countries' potential has not been fully tapped.

He said: The characteristic of the present stage of cooperation is that a new situation of cooperation has emerged; the Soviet Union's opening to the outside world and its transition to a market economy have created good conditions for establishing joint ventures, particularly for setting up international special economic zones. The Chinese have proposed the establishment of a special economic zone in the Tumen Jiang area, as it would enable China's northeast provinces and the Soviet Far East to vigorously expand economic activities with foreign countries. A bridge spanning the Amur River will be built between Heihe and Blagoveshchensk, and the prospect of building a special economic zone here is good.

(Petalenko) said: Reforms in the Soviet Union and China have broken the state monopoly on the economy and foreign trade. Any areas and enterprises are now able to engage in foreign trade. This is of course progress, but this situation has also created problems like no coordination and lack of competent foreign trade personnel. These problems have been overcome in China because it began reforms earlier than the Soviet Union. These problems have yet to be solved in the Soviet Union. I must mention the difficulties our Chinese partner has encountered. These difficulties were caused by contradictory foreign trade laws and regulations passed recently by the Soviet Union and its various republics. Without a doubt, however, these difficulties will be temporary because the political process in our country will (?solve them).

(Petalenko) stressed: We are glad to know that the Chinese side fully understands this point. Soviet-Chinese economic ties are based on equality and mutual benefit and conform with the needs of both sides. Taking this into consideration, and given the good political relations between the two countries, we can say that Soviet-Chinese economic and trade ties will be firm and long-lasting.

In conclusion, (Petalenko) talked about the recent contact between Soviet enterprises and companies in Taiwan. He said: Business contacts must not be construed as a change of Soviet policy toward Taiwan. Our position will not change; there is only one China, and Taiwan is a province of China. There will not be any question regarding this matter.

### Indonesia To Have PRC Launch Palapa Satellite

*OW2612114190 Moscow International Service in Mandarin 1300 GMT 24 Dec 90*

[Text] An Indonesian delegation is currently in China studying the possibility of using Chinese-made carrier rockets to launch a communications satellite in 1992. This was reported by a station reporter from Jakarta.

The original plan was to have the communications satellite launched in 1994. However, facing increasing demands for telecommunications services, Indonesia decided to send the satellite, Palapa-4 , into the orbit ahead of schedule.

This will be the seventh satellite sent into outer space by Indonesia. The previous satellites were all manufactured, launched, or serviced by the United States.

Apart from their excellent performance, Chinese carrier rockets also cost much less than U.S.-made rockets. No final decision has been made on this issue yet, however.

## Northeast Asia

### Gorbachev Sends Condolences to Mongolian Leader

*PM2112102190 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 19 Dec 90 Second Edition p 4*

[Message from the CPSU Central Committee General Secretary M. Gorbachev to Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party General Secretary G. Ochirbat expressing condolences in connection with a mine accident; date not given]

[Text] To comrade G. Ochirbat, general secretary of the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party.

Please accept my condolences in connection with the accident at the Main Nalayh mine, which resulted in loss of life.

Please convey our sorrow and profound sympathy to the dead miners' families.

[Signed] M. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee.

## Japanese Foreign Minister's Planned Visit Postponed

*OW3112123290 Moscow in Japanese to Japan 1200 GMT 27 Dec 90*

[Commentary by station commentator Shchedrov]

[Text] Japanese Foreign Minister Nakayama decided to postpone his official visit to the Soviet Union, which was slated for early January.

According to an announcement by a spokesman for the Japanese Foreign Ministry on 26 December, the decision to postpone the visit complies with a request from the Soviet side. In making the request for the postponement of the visit, the Soviet side cited "internal circumstances" as the reason. Foreign Minister Nakayama was expected to meet Soviet Foreign Minister Shevardnadze in Moscow on President Gorbachev's Japan visit scheduled for next spring.

A new itinerary for Foreign Minister Nakayama's Soviet visit will be arranged through diplomatic channels. The Japanese side expects that the timing of the Nakayama visit can be agreed upon before the opening of an ordinary Diet session scheduled for late January.

In connection with this issue, Radio Moscow commentator Shchedrov has the following comment:

The issue of the so-called northern territories, namely, the four South Kuril Islands, still remains as the most difficult problem in Soviet-Japanese relations. These islands were incorporated into the Soviet Union since the World War II. Japan is urging the Soviet Union to return the four islands unconditionally, but the Soviet Union has so far flatly rejected such a demand. The two countries' positions on the issue have long been fundamentally incompatible and this hampered any remarkable improvement in bilateral relations. The views of the Soviet Union and Japan on the territorial issue still remain unchanged.

Both countries are able to divert the territorial issue from the focal point of Soviet-Japanese dialogue, however, thanks to efforts by both sides to lower the strain on the issue. On the Soviet side, Presidential Council member Yakovlev and Foreign Minister Shevardnadze made decisive contributions to this end. These efforts were exerted quite carefully, and they have not been put on official documents. As a matter of fact, these efforts by both the Soviet Union and Japan opened the way for President Gorbachev's visit to Japan. Japan expects that its relations with the Soviet Union will be drastically improved through the Gorbachev visit.

Foreign Minister Shevardnadze suddenly expressed his intention to resign, however. It stands to reason that Japanese leaders feel concerned about the future of Soviet-Japanese relations as a result of this. The Soviet Government has assured that its foreign policy would remain unchanged even if Foreign Minister Shevardnadze resigns but, piecing everything together, it is impossible to completely wipe away such concern on the part of Japan. Both countries have begun to show flexible attitudes toward addressing pending issues, which may hold the key to bilateral relations, but the flexibility is unofficial in nature. The official positions of the Soviet Union and Japan are still uncompromising.

## 'Unexpected Surprise' Seen in Japanese Poll

*OW2412104690 Moscow in Japanese to Japan 1200 GMT 19 Dec 90*

[Commentary by station commentator Andreyev]

[Text] The results of an opinion poll, which NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN of Japan conducts at the end of every year, were published on 18 December. In connection with this, Moscow Radio commentator Andreyev has the following comment:

More than 6,000 people from all prefectures in Japan took part in this opinion poll. In a sense, it can be said that the results of the poll were an unexpected surprise to commentators. Most unexpected of all was that only 30 percent of the Japanese people support the immediate return of the four northern islands, which the Japanese Government demands of the Soviet Union. Those who think Japan should not make friendly overtures to the Soviet Union without this northern territories issue resolved accounted for no more than 14.6 percent.

On the other hand, more than 56 percent think that efforts should be made to resolve the territories issue while striving to improve Japanese-Soviet relations at the same time.

Like the results of the opinion polls conducted so far by other newspapers, the latest opinion poll showed as many as 72.4 percent of the people are hope that marked progress will be shown in resolving the territorial issue, the most difficult in Japanese-Soviet relations, by Soviet President Gorbachev's visit to Japan scheduled for next April. This is convincing from the fact that a majority of the Japanese people trusts President Gorbachev as a world leader. President Gorbachev's popularity is still considerably high. More than 56 percent of the people trusts in President Gorbachev.

The most delightful surprise in the results of the latest poll are the replies to a question concerning the so-called military threat of the Soviet Union. For the first time, those who clearly replied that they did not see any threat in the Soviet Union accounted for more than 25 percent.

Nearly a half of the people think that the threat still exists but that this threat lately has drastically declined. Those who believe that the Soviet Union poses a great threat to Japan, thus continuing to be captives of the conventional stereotype, accounted for no more than 15.1 percent.

Taking a comprehensive look at the results of the NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN opinion poll, it can be

pointed out that Japanese opinion is rapidly moving toward strengthening confidence in its neighbor, the Soviet Union.

The results of opinion surveys conducted in the Soviet Union, on the other hand, indicate that the Soviet people hold a very high level of interest and confidence in Japan and desire to develop overall relations with Japan through all conceivable means.

These aspects allow everyone to cherish the hope that Soviet President Gorbachev's visit to Japan will be successful and that the waves of detente created in Europe will reach even the coastline of the Japanese archipelagos before long.

### WWII Prisoner Records To Be Sent to Japan

*OW0401145591 Tokyo KYODO in English 1427 GMT 4 Jan 90*

[Text] Moscow, Jan. 4 KYODO—The Soviet Union will hand over to Japan a list of dead Japanese prisoners of war during President Mikhail Gorbachev's visit in April instead of later this month as earlier promised, the leader of a Soviet-Japan friendship group said Friday.

Aleksey Kirichenko, president of the Soviet-Japan Association for Mutual Understanding, told KYODO news service that Gorbachev will bring a list of 38,000 Japanese prisoners of war who died in Siberia after the end of World War II.

Kirichenko had pledged to release a further list of some 2,000 dead Japanese POW's when he handed over a first list of 1,444 dead POW's to the All-Japan Former Internees Association in early December in Tsuruoka, Yamagata Prefecture, northern Japan.

Kirichenko, who is also director of the International Cooperation Department of the Oriental Studies Institute of the Soviet Academy of Sciences, also signed an agreement to turn over documents on some 600,000 Japanese POW's to the Tsuruoka-based private group.

Of the total number of Japanese POW's, some 60,000 are believed to have died while engaged in forced labor in Siberia.

The Japanese Government has strongly demanded that the documents on Japanese POW's be released through government channels rather than private organizations.

The Soviet Foreign Ministry has said it understands the Japanese position.

In Tokyo, a Foreign Ministry official said that if Kirchenko's remarks are true, they prove that the Soviet Government has kept its promise.

Rokuro Saito, president of the All-Japan Former Internees Association, reacted sharply against the comments by Kirichenko, saying that the Japanese Government had "unreasonably interfered" in the agreement. He said he will continue calling on the Soviet side to provide the lists of the Japanese POW's in line with the original agreement.

### Japan's Ties With Koreas May Ease Regional Tension

*SK0101122391 Moscow International Service in Korean 1100 GMT 30 Dec 90*

[Commentary by station commentator (?Mikhail Mikhaylov) from the "Focus on Asia" program]

[Text] Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu will visit the ROK on 9 and 10 January. As has been anticipated, the Korean residents in Japan issue will be discussed during his visit.

The Japanese authorities' insulting process of periodically taking fingerprints has now become optional for hundreds of thousands of Korean residents in Japan. This is the last major issue complicating the two countries' relations. Other urgent difficult problems were resolved, in general, during ROK President No Tae-u's visit to Tokyo in May 1990. At that time, Japan officially apologized for its colonial rule and forcible occupation of Korea. ROK President No Tae-u's May visit was characterized as a clear line drawn in the two countries' relations when such relations were considered very important.

As pointed out by the ROK spokesman, the issue of detente in the world and Asian-Pacific region and the situation in northeast Asia including that on the Korean peninsula will be important topics during the Seoul talks.

Observers note that the Japanese prime minister's visit to Seoul will occur before the official talks between Tokyo and Pyongyang for normalizing their relations, slated for late January. The first affirmative progress in Japanese-DPRK relations was seen during the visit to Pyongyang by a joint delegation of Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party and the opposition Socialist Party. Since that time, diplomatic negotiations were held on three occasions. Different views on a series of issues were revealed, however. Included among them were Japan's concerns with the DPRK's nuclear plan, which does not allow inspections of nuclear facilities, and Pyongyang's demand for compensation from Tokyo, not only for the loss Korea suffered during the period of colonial rule but also for the loss incurred for 45 years after the war.

Dialogue between the DPRK and Japan is difficult. It appears that the two sides' mutual distrust will not be removed immediately. But both sides seem to be striving to remove the existing differences in views. Tokyo and Pyongyang appear to have recognized such a necessity, prompted by new factors in the development of the political situation around the Korean peninsula. These factors include the normalization of USSR-ROK relations, the formation of relations between Beijing and Seoul, and the dialogue between the DPRK and the United States.

The development of normal relations not only between Japan and the ROK but also between Japan and the DPRK, prompted by these factors, means a logical continuation of the trend of easing tension on the Korean peninsula.

### Normalizing Ties With ROK Termed 'Advantageous'

*SK3112093590 Moscow International Service in Korean 1100 GMT 19 Dec 90*

[Commentary by IZVESTIYA political commentator Aleksandr Bovin from the "Focus on Asia" program]

[Text] The Soviet Union's ideological outlook today greatly influences the national interest. This means that establishing normal relations with practically all the existing nations, including the two states on the Korean peninsula, is advantageous to us.

The ROK officials in Seoul pointed out that the establishment of diplomatic relations with Moscow has meant overcoming a certain amount of domestic resistance [iljonghan naebu chohang] because of the anti-Soviet mood which had prevailed in the nation.

In hearing the ROK people's remarks, I thought that the United States must review its stereotyped way of thinking which has existed since the Syngman Rhee era. What is furthermore difficult to discard, however, is the Soviet Union's habitual support for North Korea.

IZVESTIYA's commentator also pointed out that Pyongyang showed a negative reaction to access between Moscow and Seoul. He said: How did other countries react to this? As far as I know, Beijing did not show any worry about Moscow's action. I think it is important to point out that the access between the ROK and China has already begun. Needless to say, Pyongyang would be indignant over this. Pyongyang's act is a vain attempt.

The appearance of Soviet and Chinese ambassadors in Seoul will influence the stability of the situation on and around the Korean peninsula.

The Soviet ambassador's assumption of duty in the ROK did not cause any worry in Tokyo. Besides, Moscow expressed to Japan its understanding for Japan's plan to gradually normalize relations with the DPRK. Pyongyang also has a zeal for this line. Japan has also official relations with Seoul. This weakens, to a great extent, the theory for opposing the normalization of USSR-ROK relations.

The news media have reported that U.S. diplomats have met with North Korean diplomats on many occasions. One can predict that in view of the overall trend of recent developments in the world, diplomatic relations may be established between Pyongyang and Washington before long.

As for mutual relations between North and South Korea, their talks for reunification have been intensively held. The DPRK and ROK premiers met each other three times. Although there are still many differences between the two sides' positions, no one should deny the possibility of reunification between the North and the South. An agreement will be reached on certain principles. Such an agreement will depend on the characteristics of the internal developments in the North and the South.

### ROK Businessmen See 'Mutual Interest' in Ties

*SK3112122490 Moscow International Service in Korean 1100 GMT 28 Dec 90*

[Commentary by station commentator Aleksey Nikolayev from the "Focus on Asia" program]

[Text] As reported by the ROK's Yonhap News Agency some time ago, metallurgical companies in the ROK will increase their import of rolled (?steel ingots) from the Soviet Union and China by 10 times next year. The import of this item will reach about 400,000-500,000 tons.

This is merely one indication of interest ROK businessmen have in developing ties with the Soviet Union and China. This is also a matter of mutual interest. This has been proven by the recent development of trade and economic relations between the ROK and the two neighboring countries. For example, the volume of USSR-ROK trade in 1988 was only 250 million dollars. However, the volume of trade this year has already amounted to $1 billion. According to information by the Korea Trade Promotion Corporation, China already took precedence over the Soviet Union two years ago in terms of trade volume. The amount of China's trade with the ROK reached about $3 billion.

The prospect for the future is also bright. According to the observation of ROK experts, the trade volume between the ROK and the Soviet Union and between the ROK and China in the mid-nineties will amount to $10 billion each.

For mutually beneficial ROK-USSR and ROK-PRC cooperation, there are such objective factors as short geographical distances, mutually supplementary economies, and the development of the Soviet and Chinese economies toward reform and a (?market) system. Other important factors were also added recently. These are the establishment of diplomatic relations between Moscow and Seoul and the treaty for cooperation signed when ROK President No Tae-u visited the Soviet Union some time ago. The ROK and China also have a way to approach each other. As is known, a treaty for establishing a trade mission with consular functions in the China's capital and in Seoul was signed in Beijing some time ago. ROK political and business figures consider this as an important step for establishing complete ROK-PRC diplomatic relations in the future.

As ROK President No Tae-u stated 27 December, the road to Moscow has opened and the roads to Pyongyang

and Beijing will open before long. He expressed the hope for meeting with Deng Xiaoping.

It is also important that the Soviet Union and China stressed that they will not lessen their traditional friendship with the DPRK, even while organizing and developing relations with the ROK. This was again clarified by the Soviet leadership during the USSR-ROK talks in Moscow and was proven by the recent visit to Beijing by Yon Hyong-muk, premier of the DPRK State Administration Council.

### Economic Cooperation With South Korea Viewed

*SK0301112991 Moscow International Service in Korean 1100 GMT 2 Jan 91*

[Article by station commentator (Boris Ivanov) on "Some Aspects of USSR-ROK Cooperation" from "Focus on Asia" program]

[Text] A beautiful advertisement carried by a recent issue of NOVOYE VREMYA, a popular Soviet magazine, caught the people's attention. Aeroflot, the Soviet airline company, recommended that businessmen and tourists use the new international air route linking Moscow, Shanghai, and Seoul. This advertisement could be effective, but it has already played its part in another aspect. It is a fact that during the last half of the year alone, Soviet passenger planes carried a considerable number of Soviet people and people from other countries to the ROK. Relations between the Soviet Union and the ROK are being expanded and deepened and becoming more diverse.

Trade between the two countries is active. This is proven by the rapidly increasing amount of trade. The trade value in 1989 amounted to $600 million and in 1990 it has already reached $1 billion, according to an estimate. One can read and hear about the Soviet-ROK trade and economic relations difficulties. However, ROK businessmen are optimistic. Chairman Chong Chu-yong of the Hyundai Group, a leading ROK business combine, in an interview with reporters in Moscow, said: Frightening comments are often made that unpredictable consequences that could arise in the Soviet political situation. I, however, have a different view. President Mikhail Gorbachev's policy of promoting the development of a market economy will not only cause changes in the Soviet Union but will also contribute to the development of the a new economic order in the world.

The establishment of USSR-ROK diplomatic relations and ROK President No Tae-u's visit to our country have no doubt strengthened the ranks of optimists. Expressed in the declaration signed by the two presidents are the expectations of the two countries' business leaders that mutually beneficial economic, trade, industrial, and (?transport) cooperation will expand, as will exchanges of advanced technological processes and scientific successes, joint venture enterprises, and new types of cooperation. Some (?specific) agreements and contracts have already been signed for founding large joint venture enterprises and for ROK companies' participation in various developmental projects in Siberia and the Far Eastern region. One of them is now being realized and another is being undertaken.

The development of Soviet-ROK cooperation in various fields should favorably affect the situation in the Asian-Pacific region and contribute to the normalization of the Korean peninsula situation.

When we consider economic aspects, the idea of founding a cooperative zone within the region undoubtedly aroused interest. This was noted in the second international meeting, "Asian-Pacific Region, Dialogue, Peace, and Cooperation," held in Vladivostok in [word indistinct]. Chinese professor [name indistinct] proposed that an economic cooperative zone be founded with the participation of the Soviet Union, China, Japan, North Korea, South Korea, and Mongolia. Dear listeners: One cannot but agree that the potential linkage of these countries will produce considerable results.

### ROK Firms To Increase Steel Imports From USSR

*SK0401051791 Moscow International Service in Korean 1330 GMT 3 Jan 91*

[From the "Various Aspects of Cooperation" program]

[Text] According to a TASS report, ROK steel companies are expected to considerably increase their imports of hot rolled steel from the Soviet Union. The Tongbu Steel Company and the Union Steel Company intend to import 200,000 to 300,000 tons of steel from the Soviet Union. The low price of the Soviet rolled steel and the reasonable transportation costs interest the ROK businessmen.

### South Korean Newspaper Chief Editor Visits PRAVDA

*SK0401102791 Moscow International Service in Korean 1330 GMT 3 Jan 91*

[From the "Various Aspects of Cooperation" program]

[Text] Upon invitation of the Editorial Department of PRAVDA, the CPSU Central Committee organ, Chu Ton-sik, head of the Editorial Department of the ROK daily CHOSON ILBO, visited Moscow.

He visited the Editorial Department of PRAVDA and met its staff. The ROK guest noted that the people in his country are watching with great interest the reforms being made in the Soviet Union, and expressed his willingness to expand the relations between the two newspapers.

During the meeting at the Editorial Department, an agreement was signed on the joint events and the exchange of reporters' delegations.

## North, South Korean New Year's Addresses Compared

*SK0401070891 Moscow International Service in Korean 1100 GMT 3 Jan 91*

[Commentary by station commentator (Kiril Mikhaylov) from the "Focus on Asia" program]

[Text] The ROK president and the DPRK president, in their New Year's addresses, set the unfinished business of fatherland reunification as a priority task. Our station commentator (Kiril Mikhaylov) writes:

The presidents expressed the hope to see a reunified fatherland realized by the end of this century. Will this hope be realized then? Comparing President No Tae-u's address with that of President Kim Il-song, we note that there are still differences in their views on the reunification issue. Seoul called for the exchange of fellow countrymen, and trade and economic cooperation first, and the signing of an agreement to (?coordinate) the general principle of the relations between the two sides. The DPRK insists on signing a nonaggression agreement first, to bring an end to the tensions between the North and the South. Pyongyang is trying to achieve the reunification of the country and set up the confederal state of Koryo.

There remain different views on other issues as well. The North and the South attempted to coordinate these differences at the premier-level talks that began last year as well. The two sides held three rounds of premier-level talks, but no agreement has been reached yet. The next round of talks is scheduled toward the end of next month. It is too early to tell whether these talks will narrow the differences of the two sides.

When and how the reunification is realized will have to be solved by the Korean people north and south of the 38th Parallel. We should note, however, that other countries are also interested in the process of reunification. The international climate is changing regarding the Korean question, which originated historically with confrontation between opposing systems. I say this in connection with the normalization of relations between the ROK and the Soviet Union and the establishment of relations between Beijing and Seoul. On the other hand, Pyongyang has begun dialogue with Washington and Tokyo. This situation helps the North and the South to move more actively toward the reunification of the country. The two sides have also given their fundamental agreement that they will advance in this direction. This is reconfirmed in the New Year's addresses of President No Tae-u and President Kim Il-song.

I hope that the inter-Korean dialogue will continue to develop. In a recent interview with the Japanese daily ASAHI SHIMBUN, Mikhail Gorbachev stated that the Soviet Union is prepared to participate in the work which requires some international cooperation or guarantee for the solution of the Korean question, if the Soviet Union is requested to do so.

## DPRK Reaction to ROK Leader's Visit Rebutted

*SK2212084190 Moscow International Service in Korean 1100 GMT 21 Dec 90*

[Commentary by station commentator (Aleksey Kondratsev) from the "Focus on Asia" program]

[Text] ROK President No Tae-u's recent visit to the Soviet Union has drawn broad (?attention) from world publications.

On the whole, their assessment of the visit is positive. Only some North Korean newspapers came out with a discordant reaction.

For instance, station commentator (Aleksey Kondratsev) quotes a commentary carried in NODONG SINMUN, the official organ of the Workers' Party of Korea Central Committee.

Let us set aside, for a while, the acrimonious adjectives and excessively emotional words the NODONG SINMUN commentator employed in his commentary and instead analyze as to what worried him and to what degree he proved his concern, wrote (Aleksey Kondratsev).

First, the issue of reunification of the South and the North. According to the commentator, the ROK president attempts to settle the question of the Korean peninsula with help from outside forces.

If he means the Soviet Union by his reference to outside forces, his concern is groundless. A reading of all the data published during Soviet foreign minister's visit to the DPRK last September will be sufficient.

To begin with, the positive support the Soviet Union has extended to North Korea's effort for normalizing the situation on the peninsula, for drawing down the level of military deployment, for ending the confrontation there, for signing a nonaggression treaty, and for establishing a demilitarized zone on the Korean peninsula must be noted.

Soviet leaders insistently stood on such a stand even when they were holding talks with the ROK president in Moscow. This is stated in a declaration of the general principles governing relations between the two countries.

According to the declaration, the two countries publicly vowed to avoid interfering in the internal affairs of the other countries.

NODONG SINMUN is also concerned about the following:

Let me quote the paper. No Tae-u left for Moscow to win support from the Soviet Union for his proposal for South Korea's unilateral admission into the United Nations.

I would like to bring to mind No Tae-u's statement on the issue of getting the South and the North admitted into the United Nations.

In a news conference held in Moscow, No Tae-u said: We would not seek a unilateral representation at the United Nations without the DPRK getting admitted into it simultaneously. We want to be a member of this international organization, along with North Korea.

No commentaries are necessary on such a statement. I would only want to mention the general idea that it is none other than the Korean people themselves who will have to work out ways of settling all the questions concerning the Korean peninsula.

No outside forces can solve the Korean question. The Korean people say that 10 years is an epoch.

The whole world goes through changes in an era full of events. This depends largely on the new attitude in the Soviet foreign policy which has freed itself from the ideological framework. The normalization of the ROK-USSR relations reflects such an attitude.

Even Pyongyang seems to be in the process of freeing itself from the outdated way of thinking. This is proved by the (?agreement) reached between the DPRK and Japan in their talks for arranging the normalization of their relations. Is this not proved even by the fact U.S. and North Korean diplomats have been contacting each other in Beijing?

In conclusion, station commentator (Aleksey Kondratsev) writes: (?Only this kind of thing will be welcomed).

## Media Office's Closure in DPRK Reported

*PM2412113990 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 22 Dec 90 Second Edition p 4*

[Item from the PRAVDA-REUTER-TASS roundup under the general heading: "From the Flood of News, 21 December"]

[Text] DPRK—Without giving reasons, the DPRK has closed down the Soviet IAN bureau in Pyongyang. An IAN representative announced this on Thursday. At the same time, during a meeting with the new KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA correspondent who has arrived in Pyongyang, a spokesman for the DPRK Foreign Ministry Information Department said that the Korean side does not consider it possible to accredit him. The Foreign Ministry spokesman accounted for the refusal by saying that the newspaper's previous correspondent provided "unobjective" coverage of Korean reality and that the KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA office was only opened for the period of the preparations for and during the 13th World Youth and Student Festival in Pyongyang in 1989 and also that there is no NODONG CHONGYON—the DPRK's youth newspaper—office in Moscow.

## Korean Association in USSR Holds Plenary Session

*912C0024 Tashkent LENIN KICHI in Korean 17 Oct 90 p 1*

[Report by LENIN KICHI correspondent: "The National Association of Koreans in the USSR Holds Its Second Plenary Meeting"]

[Text] The National Association of Koreans in the Soviet Union [NAKSU], formed in May this year opened its second plenary meeting in late October.

Present were delegates of cultural centers of Koreans from all over the Soviet Union—Moscow, Sakhalin, Kazakhstan, Primorye, Khabarovsk, the Ukraine, the central Asian republics, and the Baltic Sea republics.

The plenary meeting marked the launching of concrete programs by cultural centers and associations.

In the first-day session, participants elected members of the Standing Committee of the NAKSU Central Council. Among them were representatives of republic and local cultural centers and presidents of LENIN KICHI and KORYO ILBO as well as members of the NAKSU leadership.

The Standing Committee will coordinate activities of republic and local cultural centers and deal with major problems pertaining to the associations within its authority. In this connection, local cultural centers are completely independent in dealing with their local problems. At the same time, NAKSU is charged with the mission of uniting the efforts of all the cultural centers and cooperating with them in devising and implementing programs of vital interest to Koreans in the USSR.

The plenary meeting also approved the appointment of advisers for NAKSU. They were Kim Yong-ung, deputy to the USSR Congress of the People, who worked as chairman of the founding and organizing committee for NAKSU; Hwang Man-kum, honorary chairman of Politotdel Kolkhoz and socialist labor hero; and Yi Vladimir Petrovich, adviser for the CPSU Central Committee.

Also approved were the creation of the following permanent committees.

1. The Committee on Language, Culture, Information and Publications
2. The Committee on Social and Economic Affairs
3. The Committee on Science, Technology and Education
4. The Committee on People's Problems
5. The Committee on the Handicapped, the Aged and Youth
6. The Committee for External Liaison

These committees will formulate and implement basic NAKSU programs for their respective areas.

Next, participants in the plenary meeting heard a report by NAKSU President Pak Mikhail Nikolayevich on "the Programmatic Task of NAKSU," and held a debate on it.

In his report, the NAKSU president pointed out as follows:

The Stalinist repression which imposed countless tragedies on all the Soviet people inflicted pains on Koreans in the Soviet Union too. We were unreasonably subjected to repression and relocation and we were deprived of our fine sons and daughters. It was our tragedy that the Korean culture in the Soviet Union was thus obliterated.

Thanks to the revolutionary turnaround under the policy of openness, Koreans in the USSR came to have the possibility of reviving their national language, spirit, culture, traditions and customs. Throughout the Soviet Union, Korean cultural centers, associations and other social organizations were formed for brisk activities. This fact proves that our national consciousness has awakened. The forming of NAKSU in May this year made it possible to coordinate through it activities of these national social organizations in a reasonable manner. The main task of NAKSU is to unite Koreans in the Soviet Union on the basis of the internationalist spirit of the Soviet people.

Activities of NAKSU, representing the autonomous national rights of the Koreans in the USSR, are based on Soviet laws providing for the "free national developments of the Soviet citizens." These laws guarantee not only the legal basis for NAKSU activities but also the rights for Korean-Soviet citizens to establish programs in the socio-political, cultural and national areas based on the right of self-determination. For the purpose of ensuring the free developments of Koreans in the USSR and the complete realization of the equality and the national interests of the Soviet people, NAKSU (with the cooperation of local cultural centers and associations) will closely cooperate with public and state agencies and, in cooperation with these agencies, take measures to perfect the form of national self-determination for Koreans in the Soviet Union. It will also cooperate in creating national districts, national communities, national villages and other administrative units (in keeping with procedures established by the law) in areas where Koreans reside collectively.

NAKSU will pay priority attention to the task of reviving and developing the Korean national culture in the Soviet Union. In this respect, the speaker emphasized, NAKSU will make a maximum use of inner possibilities and possibilities it gains through external relations.

The second NAKSU plenary meeting will prove to be a turning point in the history of the Koreans in the Soviet Union. Our national movement has become a realistic factor in Soviet social life and is now increasing its vitality.

### North Korea Blamed for Starting Korean War

*PM0201145191 Moscow NOVOYE VREMYA in Russian No 52, 21 Dec 90 p 30*

[Article by Leningrad reader (Kan San Kho), "former high-ranking party official from North Korea": "The North Started the War"]

[Text] The fratricidal war in Korea lasted three years, cost millions of lives, and reduced almost every city and village in the North and South alike to ruins and ashes. Who started this fratricidal war? The North says it was the South, whereas the South blames the North.

I wish to describe what I witnessed.

Before the war started North Korean papers were constantly writing that Pyongyang was making tremendous efforts for the peaceful unification of the country and had repeatedly put specific proposals to the South Korean administration but had not met with any understanding on its part. It was simultaneously reported that Seoul President Syngman Rhee intended to achieve the unification of Korean by military means. As proof the press reproduced a photograph showing prominent Washington figure John F. Dulles standing by the demarcation line on the 38th parallel and pointing in the direction of North Korea.

As a result of such propaganda an absolute majority of the population of North Korea believed that the war was started by Syngman Rhee on U.S. instructions. Therefore the Army and the people rose up in harmony for the defense and liberation of the homeland.

I have to say that at the time I also believed that war was inevitable and Syngman Rhee would definitely attack the North. Immediately before the war I was working as deputy chairman of a Workers Party of Korea [WPK] committee in a province bordering South Korea. In May 1950 I was assigned to another county. There, in conjunction with the chairman of the WPK county committee, I was engaged in organizing rear operations and supplying troop units newly arrived from China. These troops, two divisions of Korean soldiers who had fought on Mao Zedong's side against the Kuomintang, were stationed in the immediate vicinity of the 38th parallel. At the time I thought that the DPRK Supreme Command, having learned in advance that an attack was being prepared from the South, was preparing for defense.

In mid-June I was a patient in the Pyongyang central hospital. The evening before being discharged I was called to the telephone. WPK Central Committee First Secretary Khe Gay [name as transliterated] was on the line. He told me to report to Council of Ministers Chairman Kim Il-song immediately. This was the night of 24-25 June 1950.... Within an hour I was in Kim

Il-song's office. Virtually the entire Council of Ministers had already gathered there. Kim Il-song reported that two hours previously—that is, at one in the morning—the South Korean Army had initiated hostilities along the entire length of the 38th parallel and he, as commander in chief, had ordered the Korean People's Army to launch a counteroffensive. Kim Il-song asked the Council of Ministers to approve his order. All the cabinet members voted. Sitting in the conference room, I, too, was sure that the South Korean Army had attacked the North first.

After the Council of Ministers session I visited the border areas which (according to press reports) had been hit by the South Korean Army. I remember something which greatly surprised me: There was no visible trace of hostilities anywhere.

I crossed the 38th parallel into South Korea together with the chairman of another WPK county committee. On hills along the road we saw abandoned South Korean Army fortifications. There were guns with complete ammunition loads, and piles of corpses of South Korean soldiers all around. As we headed south we began to come across shell craters along the side of the road. This was where I felt my first doubts that South Korea had started the war. Indeed, if the South had started the war, why were there no craters, destruction, or traces of fire damage on our side of the border? Why were there no spent cartridge cases around the South Korean Army emplacements near the border? It also seemed strange that Korean People's Army units took Seoul, the capital of South Korea, in three days. Because usually the side which starts a war gains at least a minimal advantage. If the United States had ordered Syngman Rhee to start the war, why had it pulled out all its troops and left only one division in South Korea?

In time the answers to these questions led me to conclude that North Korea started the war. A war which brought sorrow upon the entire Korean people and deepened the division of our nation.

## DPRK War Victims' Resentment Examined

*912C0032 Tashkent LENIN KICHI in Korean 26 Oct 90 p 4*

[Article by Kang Sang-ho]

[Text] Anger and resentment are sacred feelings to man. I happened to know such feelings too soon. My mother passed away when I was eight. My father was killed in combat with the Japanese armed intervention army when I was eleven. The anger and resentment resulting from these two facts have been burning in my heart. If I think that these can be anybody's misfortune, however, these feelings are not insurmountable. On the other hand, it soothes me to think of revenge by fighting with the Japanese, my implacable enemy, when I grow up and become a soldier fighting for national independence.

There are different kinds of deep-seated anger and resentment that we cannot forget not even for a moment. There are those resulting from our parents and little brothers and sisters being taken away at gun point and their whereabouts and fates never being known. When we asked about their whereabouts and fates, they told us lies and even criticized us for asking them.

There are millions of Korean people living in the Soviet Union, who have been agonizing all their lives with deep-seated anger and resentment in their hearts. The offspring of those who were victimized by Stalin's violence in the 1930's and 1940's got a belated official response from the Soviet Union's judicial system, and they are in deep sorrow.

Families of those innocent 50 Korean-Russians who were sent by the Russian Government to North Korea by their request, however, are leading miserable lives since the fates of those 50 are not known. Thirty years have already passed since they were forced to be separated from their parents, brothers, and sisters. But feelings of anger and resentment are getting stronger.

Recently in Moscow, I met Vera, the wife of comrade Kim Yong-su [one of the Korean-Russians sent to North Korea]. Kim is a cousin of Pak Yong-bin who recently visited Pyongyang and got a warm reception and many gifts from the same bloody hands who killed the innocent Korean-Russians. When Vera cried instead of saying hello to me, I felt my heart break. When I heard her say, "How happy you must be since you are able to come back to Russia and live with your children and offspring!," I felt as though a knife were being stabbed in my heart.

I met Lisa in Karaganda, a daughter of my old friend, Ch'oe Chong-hak. Ch'oe was a four-star general and former North Korean Army Political Bureau chief, and was later purged. When she saw me, she hugged me and started crying without saying a word. But when she said, "You came back alive. But do you know which jail or camp my father, mother, brothers, and sisters were killed in?," it sounded as if she were scolding me.

I felt my heart tear apart. Although I never forgot the comrade-in-arms, the regret that I might not have done all that I could do for him always agonized me, like a horrible disease in the corner of my heart. Although the fates of my comrades-in-arms were reported in the North Korean newspaper, I felt it was not enough. That is why I am writing this grievance.

In Moscow I met Yelena, the wife of Ho Ik (former principal of the North Korean Central Party school), her sons Valeri and Anatoliy, and her daughter Galina; Yevgeniy, the son of Pak I-wan (former deputy-premier); and the son of Ho Pin (former party chairman of North Hwanghe Province). Meeting them always caused us tears and sighs.

When I visited Tashkent, I visited the wife of our comrade-in-arms, Pak Ch'ang-shik, who was purged

together with Comrade Kim Ch'an (former Finance Minister and major general of the People's Armed Forces of North Korea). This old lady is still waiting for her husband to come back to her. She does not want to believe that such a good and kind husband was purged. We all cried when we met our comrade-in-arms' wife, whose hair turned grey waiting for her husband with tears and sighs.

Dear fellow comrades-in-arms and comrades! We cannot just wait and see. If we think that "Since I returned to the Soviet Union alive, I am lucky," it is immoral. According to the North Korean newspaper, some of our comrades-in-arms are showing betrayal to the whole world by visiting the very man who killed our comrades, praising him, getting commendation and expensive gifts from him, and having their pictures taken with him, completely forgetting other comrades who were victimized by him. What a shameful act! Aren't our anger and resentment deep-seated?

The Korean people, who were liberated from the Japanese colonial rule in 1945, should have lived happily, but the reality is to the contrary.

Millions of innocent Korean people left their hometowns for China, Russia, and the United States to avoid Japanese oppression and exploitation during the occupation. Furthermore, ten million people lost their hometowns and families due to the Korean war. They spent painful days on the Korean peninsula due to the Korean war.

In the Soviet Union, families of the 50 of our comrades-in-arms, who were sent to North Korea to participate in the construction of our fatherland and were victimized by one man's oppression, are agonizing over the fates of their parents, brothers, and sisters.

Now is the time when the Iron Curtains are being demolished in various parts of the world, and human rights and democratic freedom are being protected and humanitarianism is being highly voiced. However, only the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in this world is neglecting all of these movements and has kept the Iron Curtain closed. North Korea is secretly hiding even the fates of the 50 victims and when asked about their fates, they provided inhumane and insulting answers as an official response.

The anger and grievance of the families of the victimized cannot die down by itself. The anger and grievance will be a miserable lesson generation after generation, as they float like a tragic legend with the passage of time.

## Southeast Asia & Pacific

### Commentaries View, Assess Philippines Coup Attempts

#### 'Adverse Effects' Seen

*HK2512062090 Moscow in Tagalog to the Philippines 1300 GMT 24 Dec 90*

[Vladimir Viktorov commentary]

[Text] The court martial of soldiers involved in the aborted August 1987 coup d'etat has ended. Reports say up to 117 men have been sentenced to between 12-32 years. Have Filipinos forgotten this event, since other coup attempts have taken place, the last one being a bloody one in December 1989? Doubtless these events have had a large negative effect on the country. Hundreds were killed and the Philippines has suffered the consequences, with the political situation experiencing the most adverse effects both in its internal and external conditions.

A series of events last year included the flight of capital from the country, much of which was stolen by the Marcoses from the government's coffers. Reports say the Marcoses looted up to $15 billion from the country. But among soldiers involved in various coup attempts are those who wish the Marcoses to be allowed back in the country in order to clear their name.

The present messy situation in the country is a product of maneuvers by enemies of President Corazon Aquino's government who particularly want an end to the foreign military presence. Ongoing talks between Manila and Washington on the future of the military bases began after Aquino took office. The long and complicated negotiations show that Washington is not happy at the prospect of losing its largest military facility outside the United States, particularly at this time of the Persian Gulf crisis. Washington, in its wish to retain the military bases, has been exerting pressure on Manila to drop its demand for higher payment for the bases.

Meanwhile, other events included an issue probed by the Philippine Congress on the alleged involvement of the Americans in the aborted 1987 coup. According to Congressman Florencio Abad, there is a strong connection between the coup attempts and moves to evict the military bases. To date, the leader of one aborted coup, Colonel Gregorio Honasan, has escaped arrest by the authorities. It is reported that during a critical part of the 1987 coup attempt, Honasan was whisked away by a helicopter belonging to the U.S. Embassy in Manila. Honasan was later caught but he soon escaped, and it is believed this happened with the help of a foreign group. Meanwhile Honasan has been sending out announcements about a new coup d'etat that will be launched to topple the Aquino Government.

The latest decision handed down by the military court trying the soldiers involved in the 1987 coup attempt indicates that the Aquino administration will not tolerate further turmoil in the country.

#### Latest Threat Scrutinized

*HK2812040990 Moscow in Tagalog to the Philippines 1300 GMT 27 Dec 90*

[Anatoliy Aleksandrov Commentary]

[Text] Former Colonel Gregorio Honasan says his group will not rest until it topples the government of President

Corazon Aquino. This latest threat by Honasan was sent to Manila's major newspapers in Christmas envelopes. Gringo's [Honasan's nickname] message did not specify the exact nature of the violence being planned. But the rebel soldiers are obviously still planning to continue their attacks against the present administration.

The Reform the Armed Forces Movement has attempted to overthrow the Aquino government six times, but all these have been thwarted. These were followed by smaller rebellions, all of which have likewise been aborted.

Recently, four persons were arrested as they attempted to bomb an airbase 80 kilometers outside Manila. This took place after a court issued a decision against soldiers involved in the attempted coup d'etat in 1987.

In that attack, rebel soldiers were able to get close to Malacanang; 18 persons were killed, and President Aquino's son was injured. Gringo Honasan led that attack and escaped, but he has been coming out of hiding to give interviews to various journalists. Filipinos are astonished by Gringo's maneuvers, such as the one last year in which he led a coup that killed 100 persons and injured 500 others.

Analysts say Gringo's latest announcement is a reaction to the court sentencing of the soldiers involved in the last coup attempt. It should be no surprise that the rebels who remain at large pose a continued threat to the Aquino administration, especially at this time when the Philippines faces many other problems. Some of these problems are the collapse of the economy, the failure of land reform, and the energy shortage resulting from the crisis in the Persian Gulf.

The renewed talks between Manila and Washington next month on the future of the military bases could result in more violence by rebel soldiers, which will further erode the nation's security. Gringo's latest message underlines the continuing threat that faces the country.

### Yazov Sends Greetings to Vietnamese Counterpart

*91UM0207A Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 22 Dec 90 First Edition p 1*

[Greeting by Defense Minister Yazov to the SRV Minister of National Defense Le Duc Anh]

[Text] To Comrade General of the Army Le Duc Anh, minister of national defense of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam

In the name of the USSR Armed Forces and on my own behalf, I congratulate you and all Vietnamese troops on the 46th anniversary of the creation of the Vietnamese People's Army.

We express the firm conviction that a further increase in the effectiveness of the interaction of our armies will serve the basic interests of the Soviet and Vietnamese peoples in the future as well and contribute in every possible way to a healing of the political climate in Southeast Asia.

I wish the troops of the Vietnamese People's Army and all the workers of Vietnam great success in implementing the program of comprehensive renewal of society, peace, and prosperity.

[Signed] Marshal of the Soviet Union D. Yazov, USSR minister of defense.

### PRAVDA Notes CPSU Delegation's Cambodia Visit

*PM0101125591 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 28 Dec 90 Second Edition p 4*

[Unattributed report: "Interparty Links"]

[Text] A delegation of CPSU workers headed by M.I Paryshkura, secretary of the Kirghiz Communist Party Central Committee, was in the State of Cambodia 18 through 26 December in accordance with a plan for ties between the CPSU and the Cambodian People's Revolutionary Party [KPRP]; they had come in order to familiarize themselves with the activity of the KPRP and exchange experience of organizational-party work. The delegation was received by Sar Kheng and Say Phuthang, members of the KPRP Central Committee Politburo.

### Expert on Burma Views Crisis in Myanmar

*BK0301142191 Moscow in Burmese to Burma 1200 GMT 2 Jan 91*

[Interview with Dr. Vladimir Vasilyev, expert on Burmese affairs of the Far Eastern Research Department under the Soviet Academy for Sciences, by station observer Yuriy Kostin]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [Kostin] Do you know the saying of Virgil [in Dante's "Inferno"]: Abandon hope all ye who enter here?

[Vasilyev] Yes. Not only do I know that saying, I even had those words engraved on the door of the house that I lived in in Myanmar. Why do you ask me this?

[Kostin] That is because I stayed at that house after you left and the houseowner spoke to me about you, and it was in endearing terms. [passage omitted] Can you relate Virgil's saying above with the fate of Myanmar?

[Vasilyev] Yes. That is really a difficult question to answer. Myanmar has passed through many events in the past 25 years. When one talks about the past, it usually includes both the good as well as the bad. For example, the launching of Project Mya-Sein-Yaung [Project Emerald Green] in the early 1970's, though small in extent, was a genuine revolution which markedly increased the paddy production. But many profound problems remained in the distribution of food to the people and they could be felt both in the 1970's and the

1980's. We can also take a look at another problem. There were peace talks between the government and the different insurgent groups in 1969, but they did not bear any fruitful results. The civil war that went on then continues today. Myanmar also has to go through the long, historical, experimental period of the Burma Socialist Program Party. That experiment also ended in a failure. It could not improve the lives of the people nor could it develop, stabilize, and bring peace to the country.

[Kostin] Do you think that the events of 1988 are the result of such an experiment?

[Vasilyev] Generally speaking, I would have to say yes. But the crisis of 1988 was a gradual culmination of problems that came together from every direction. You can find these problems in the economic, social, political, and ideological fields. Firstly, the most evident were the problems in the economic field. In the mid-1980's, some businesses failed, and some industries experienced (?reduced) production, while paddy production leveled off. Crude oil production fell to a level that was less than the production figure of 1939, and this caused the need to import oil from abroad. Cars had to wait in long queues to get gasoline, mineral extraction and refining and smelting work halted. As we all know, there was a shortage of raw materials, spare parts, fuel oil, and industrial materials; income from exports fell considerably, while external debts increased. At last report, the external debts total $6 billion and this is really a burden for Myanmar. A large portion of the export earnings is being used to service foreign debt. Although some years have passed, the per capita income of a Burmese remained under $200. That is the reason why the United Nations has listed Myanmar among the less developed countries of the world.

[Kostin] What are the key causes of the crisis of 1988?

[Vasilyev] In my opinion, the crisis was a problem connected to the whole Myanmar country and its social system. The system in question was not just simple bureaucracy but military bureaucracy that administered the country through commands. That is why the system was very rigid [words indistinct]. We can easily recall that the leaders of the country were one and the same with the leaders of the military. Experts were ignored and shunted aside. We can also recall what the government did, for instance the forceful acquisition of farm products from the farmers, the demonetization of currency notes, and the isolation of the country from the rest of the world.

[Kostin] I personally witnessed [words indistinct] in Myanmar.

[Vasilyev] I believe they acted according to their whims and fancy. One of the declaration of the Burma Socialist Program Party stated that private enterprises would be permitted in a fair way and under appropriate conditions. But within a year, it was announced that private enterprises would no longer be permitted. Doing things according to the mood of the moment does not serve the country. It placed restrictions on the productive forces of the country and stalled the economy. What was actually needed was to open up opportunities for the development of productive forces in all spheres. If one fails do this, reforms are likely to end without success. It would be like transferring backwardness and poverty from one sector to another. The ruling Burma Socialist Program Party appeared to have noticed that fact. That was why a plan to bring about widespread economic changes was presented at the party congress in July 1988. The party discussed decentralization of the economy, promotion of the private sector, and incentives to bring in foreign investments.

[Kostin] Personally, I think the steps taken were too late, and the people were already fed up with waiting.

[Vasilyev] Yes, I agree with that supposition.

[Kostin] We have been mainly discussing the economic problems. These problems rapidly spread like fire to the other sectors also.

[Vasilyev] True. The events of September 1988 evidently proved that point. Myanmar, I believe, had never faced such a political upheaval before. The main demands were for the people to have an effective say in the decisionmaking process on democratic, political, and economic matters. The Burma Socialist Program Party was made to agree to hold elections at an extraordinary party congress. Later, military leaders abolished the 1964 National Unity Law that only permitted one-party rule in the country. Elections were believed to have ended disunity in the country. But the most pressing question today is when the election results will be honored and put into practice. It has been eight months since the elections were held.

[Kostin] I agree with you on this point. We have been hearing comments about how election results (?will no longer be honored). It has been said that a state constitution must be drafted first and approved by a national referendum and only then will it be possible to convene the legislature elected in May.

[Vasilyev] Yes, I agree with you, too. It is not only Myanmar, but much of the world, that is well aware of the political deflection that is taking place in Myanmar. I do not want to say something that might amount to interference in another country's affairs. The fact is the situation in Myanmar is being discussed even in the United Nations today. The world organization is gravely concerned over the increasing repression of opposition forces there. As a genuine old friend of that country, I do not even know what to say. The situation that arose following the elections is not only difficult to understand but is even cause for concern. Quite a number of leaders that won the elections are now in jail. Daw Aung San Suu Kyi has been under house arrest for 18 months now. It appears that she will remain there indefinitely.

[Kostin] If that is the case, is the saying: Abandon hope all ye who enter here, becoming appropriate for the country?

[Vasilyev] As in all cases, hope is always there, even in politics, and it may perhaps [words indistinct]. Hope in this case lies on the extent one is willing to compromise and on the talks participated in by all concerned. A situation of an endless conflict cannot last. The government showed magnanimity and foresight in 1963 when it held peace talks with the insurgents. Is it more difficult now to have round-table talks with a party that has honestly won the elections? I believe many things can be agreed upon if both sides are willing to give and take.

[Kostin] We are gradually encroaching upon political problems now. Among these problems, the development of democracy is the most important issue. I believe this should be discussed separately. Let us have another round of discussions on this subject.

[Vasilyev] I agree to discuss it another time.

[Kostin] Thank you for your insight this time around.

## UN Sanctions Against Israel Over Lebanon Urged

*LD0101112191 Moscow International Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 31 December 90*

[Commentary by Aleksandr Grasnov]

[Text] Lebanon today celebrates the anniversary of a memorable event in its contemporary history: the passage of one year on the departure of the last foreign soldier from the Lebanese territory as a result of UN Security Council Resolution 725. But intelligent listeners and particularly the Lebanese among them might express astonishment at what they are hearing: For there is no such United Nations Security Council resolution and besides, there are many foreign troops in Lebanon at present.

That is true, dear listeners: I only wanted to enter the world of fantasy and imagined that I was writing this commentary in the summer of say 1992. Such a fantasy is appropriate. For the Lebanese people celeberate on the last day of every year the anniversary of their Evacuation Day. Forty-four years ago, the French and British forces withdrew from the Lebanese territories and the country attained its true political independence. Thus ended the struggle of the valiant Lebanese people for national liberation.

To a large extent, the Lebanese people's victory was due to the support of the USSR. In February 1946, the United Nations Security Council discussed a motion by Lebanon and Syria calling for the withdrawal of the foreign forces from their territories. The Western powers, however, tried to pass a resolution that would have practically perpetuated the military occupation of these two neighboring countries. But to prevent this happening, the Soviet delegate used the right of veto for the first time.

Regrettably, the Lebanese people are today celebrating their Evacuation Day for the eighth year in succession while a large part of their country is under occupation by Israel. I wish to point out in this respect that while we keep quiet about the [Syrian] military presence in Lebanon, we must not equate it with the Israeli occupation. This is because Syria has old links with Lebanon. Furthermore, the Israeli occupation forces in the Lebanese territories threaten not only Lebanon but also Syria, which can never ignore this threat and [must] take the necessary measures to confront it.

There is yet another reason: If Israel were to implement UN resolutions 425 and 509 and withdraw its forces from Lebanese territory, that in itself would also help solve the issue of the Syrian military presence by the Arabs themselves.

If Israel persists in ignoring this demand in the future as well, then the United Nations Security Council should consider the imposition of sanctions against the invaders.

A situation is developing in the world at present in which the role of the United Nations and the Security Council has been growing immensely in solving the issues of the occupation of other peoples' lands.

I must point out, however, in this regard that during the discussion of the Gulf crisis and of the situation in the occupied Palestinian territory, the United States found itself in a spot when it was very difficult for it to discuss the issue of the Middle East from the point of view of its own private interests and those of Israel only. Perhaps, the resolution of the Iraqi-Kuwaiti conflict may lead to the creation of favorable new conditions for similar settlements of other matters of urgency to the Arabs, including the issue of the liberation of Lebanon from the Israeli invaders. Then the United Nations Security Council will be in a stronger position to ask Israel to implement its past resolutions on Lebanon. We hope the United States will then be able to face all that without fear of exposing itself to condemnation and criticism.

## Iranian Reaction to Shevardnadze Decision Eyed

*NC3012092490 Moscow Radio Peace and Progress in Persian to Iran 1530 GMT 29 Dec 90*

[Station commentary]

[Text] Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze's announcement of his resignation continues to be a topic of discussion in the mass media in Iran and around the world. Even though the issue of whether Shevardnadze's resignation will be accepted remains unresolved, Tehran's KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL believes that the Soviet foreign minister's statement probably reflects

the uncertainty hanging over the Soviet Union's domestic and foreign policies. Our commentator writes in relation with this:

It is only natural that Shevardnadze's remarks should arouse concern in Iran. This prominent statesman is seen in Iran as a trustworthy and persistent defender of the policy of restructuring or perestroyka. His wise and flexible diplomacy gained the Iranians' trust and helped make progress in improving Soviet-Iranian relations possible. Eduard Shevardnadze was the only high-ranking Soviet political leader to be received in audience by the late Ayatollah Khomeyni.

The Soviet foreign minister's visit to Iran helped raise Soviet-Iranian relations to a new level. It is natural, therefore, to examine the effects Shevardnadze's resignation will have on the expansion of goodneighborly relations between the two countries.

First of all, I repeat that the issue of the acceptance of the foreign minister's resignation is still unresolved. Second, everyone recognizes that the processes of democratizing Soviet society and restructuring Soviet foreign policy on the basis of the principle of the new political thinking have gone too far for there to be any doubt about their irreversibility. Perestroyka has very strong roots and is required by the very logic of progress in Soviet society in particular and international relations in general. Therefore, it is wrong to link the fate of restructuring or perestroyka to the fate of one person, no matter how worthy he may be.

There are many strong supporters of Shevardnadze's diplomacy in the Soviet Union. There are also some critics, but on the whole they too accept the need for restructuring or perestroyka.

In my view, Iranian reaction to Shevardnadze's announcement of his desire to resign can be divided into two camps. The first camp regards Shevardnadze's resignation as the defeat of restructuring, and they do not hide their satisfaction over this. The conservatives—the opponents of changes in Iran's political life—generally belong to this camp. The stand of the other camp is mostly the result of the fact that its members take a favorable and sympathetic view of restructuring in the Soviet Union, because in many ways the problems Iran is now facing in its own efforts to restructure its policy are similar to those confronting the Soviet Union.

I do not believe that Iranian supporters of restructuring have serious cause for concern. In my view, it is most likely that the processes of restructuring in both the Soviet Union and Iran will continue and advance, with each enriching the other, because this is required by the demands of the present day and of history. The continuation of this policy was emphasized in the historic messages exchanged between President Mikhail Gorbachev and the Iranian leaders. I think that the profound philosophical thoughts contained in these messages and the past and future assessments of Soviet-Iranian relations will remain valid and matters of urgency for many years to come.

### End to Khomeyni's Rushdie 'Hunt' Sought

*NC2212092590 Moscow Radio Peace and Progress in Persian to Iran 1530 GMT 21 Dec 90*

[Station commentary]

[Text] British author Salman Rushdie, whose book Satanic Verses enraged religious fanatics, was interviewed by ABC television and stated that he is gradually coming out of hiding after Ayatollah Khomeyni decreed his death. Rushdie assured the U.S. correspondent that no one could have been offended in two years. He said that contacts with Islamic leaders in and outside Britain are commencing so that the misunderstandings between him and those who criticized his book can be overcome.

Our commentator writes: We hope that time will bring those who organized the hunt for Rushdie to their senses. In our times death threats because of an author's imagination are dreadful. Rushdie has expressed optimism too soon, however. For his safety it is necessary to warn volunteer and mercenary murderers from acting on death threats.

An Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman recently said the death decree on the author is still in force. Some time before this Iran's Culture Minister Mohammad Hatami pointed out that the decree issued by Iran's religious leader should be carried out. An Iranian foundation headed by Ayatollah Hoseyn [name indistinct] confirmed the death decree of the Satanic Verses' author. Some of the reports in the Iranian press point out that if Ayatollah Khomeyni's decree is carried out by a foreigner, the reward is $1 million, and that if it is carried out by an Iranian, the reward is 200 million rials.

There is a Latin saying that the dead take the living to the grave. It has been a while since Ayatollah Khomeyni died, but his dreadful decree continues to threaten the living Rushdie. This is because politics are involved in Ayatollah Khomeyni's decree. This goals of this policy are to consolidate the fundamentalists' control over Iranians' behavior and thoughts, to confront the democratization of Iran's social life, and to continue keeping the country isolated in the world.

It is no accident that the commotion over Rushdie's book led to the severence of diplomatic relations between Iran and Britain and, in general, to excellerated tension between the world of Islam and the West.

Relations between Iran and Britain have now been re-established, and the British charge is working in Tehran. Apparently the British Government is trying to elevate the level of its relations with Iran. Some time ago British Prime Minister John Major sent a message to Iranian President Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

By proposing an expansion of bilateral relations, he expressed concern about the Persian Gulf situation.

Relations between Iran and France have improved and Iran's links with the EEC members are consolidating. This positive policy collides with efforts by fundamentalists both in Iran and in the West—fundamentalists who link ideological and religious differences to relations among governments. This is a confrontation with healthy international relations and is illegal.

Closing the so-called Rushdie file and winding up the shameful chase after the author is tantamount to the victory of sound judgment over superstitions and savagery.

### Academician Condemns Afghan Intervention

*LD2712200290 Moscow TASS in English 1818 GMT 27 Dec 90*

[By TASS corespondent Yeygeniy Aleksandrov]

[Text] Moscow December 27 TASS—"The dispatch of Soviet troops to Afghanistan 11 years ago must be condemned morally and politically, and I support the negative appraisal of this act by the USSR Congress of People's Deputies on December 24, 1989," said Yuriy Gankovskiy, senior researcher at the Soviet Oriental Studies Institute.

"There are many blank spots in the developments connected with the dispatch of the 40th Army to Afghanistan," he said in a TASS interview. Gankovskiy proposed that a "white paper" be published in the USSR to stop speculations on the "Afghan" theme. The "white paper" should contain unbiased information on reasons and people who took the decision to dispatch Soviet troops to Afghanistan.

The results of the 40th Army's operations cannot be described as a victory or a defeat, since "it had to fulfill limited tasks: the protection of Kabul, main administrative centres, important economic projects, highways and major airdromes.

According to the researcher, these tasks were completely fulfilled. The 110,000-strong contingent could not assume other functions in a country with mountainous terrain and 20,000 towns and villages, the territory of which is roughly equal to that of France, Belgium, the Netherlands, Luxembourg and Switzerland taken together, he noted.

As for Soviet military aid to Afghanistan now, Gankovskiy said that it may be stopped only after the conclusion of an international treaty on non-interference in Afghanistan's domestic affairs, the participants of which could include the USSR, the United States, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Iran, etc.

"The present comprehensive cooperation between the Soviet Union and Afghanistan conforms not only to present-day interests but also to long-term interests of the two nations. It should be developed and strengthened in every way," Gankovskiy continued.

He noted that the total length of the Soviet-Afghan border tops 2,200 kilometers. Tajiks whose population in Afghanistan is greater than in the Soviet Union, Uzbeks and Turkmens make up the bulk of the population in Afghanistan's northern provinces.

### Syrian Trade, Debt Figures Reported

*LD2512230290*

[Editorial Report] Moscow Central Television First Program Network in Russian at 1530 GMT on 25 December, in its "Vremya" newscast carries a three-minute report by correspondent I. Rostovtsev on Syria, one of the USSR's main Near Eastern trading partners. A.S. Skripkin, economic envoy at the USSR's embassy in Syria, provides some figures: In the first 10 months of this year, Syria has supplied more than six million foreign currency rubles' worth of consumer goods to the USSR. In terms of prices at home, this amounts to 3.5-4 million rubles. By and large, these goods are sent to repay the credits previously supplied to Syria by the USSR—most of them military credits.

The USSR is also helping Syria develop its oil industry, power engineering and irrigation, Skripkin continues. Without this assistance, the Syrians would be unable to repay their old debts. The Syrian debt to the Soviet Union is officially reckoned at around seven billion rubles.

## Sub-Saharan Africa

### Reports View Unrest, Fighting in Somalia

#### Situation 'Seriously Deteriorated'

*LD0301141691 Moscow TASS in English 1336 GMT 3 Jan 91*

[Text] Moscow January 3 TASS—A Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman said here today that the political situation in Somalia had seriously deteriorated in the past few days. Armed conflicts have also taken place in the capital Mogadishu.

"We have no intention of commenting on these events because we regard them as Somalia's internal affairs," he said.

"We want to announce that there are no casualties among 39 Soviet nationals in this country. Necessary measures have been taken to ensure the security of our people, including their possible evacuation," the spokesman said.

"We have established and maintained contacts with the Italian side, which is also organising the evacuation of its citizens from Mogadishu," he said.

### Government, Opposition Viewed

*EA2112112690 Moscow International Service in 1600 GMT 18 Dec 90*

[Commentary by Abdallahi Hassan Jama; from the "World Events Today" program]

[Text] The situation in Somalia is very bleak. Fighting between government forces and rebels is gathering momentum. Tribal conflicts have even spread to Mogadishu, the Somali capital. Economic deterioration continues unabated. Security for citizens and their property has vanished. Economic, political, and social problems have been the main contributory factors to all these new phenomena, which have assumed tribal dimensions.

What path will Somalia follow? Given the complexity of the political situation in Somalia, the current situation will usher in what I would call a rebel-organized coup. The Somali regime and keen observers of events in Somalia would like such a result to be averted in favour of a peaceful settlement. There are accordingly two parties in Somalia in conflict on the above-mentioned political lines.

There are many alternative forms of political settlement, one being the Somali Government's readiness to introduce multiparty politics and hold a peace dialogue. Foreign politicians are ready to support this move by performing a mediatory role. The government, after grinding to a halt in a political quagmire, admitted that it can only salvage itself by its latest move of allowing formation of many political parties. This move is in the national interest.

The obstacle to a political settlement is the path taken by the rebels, however—an infamous path throughout the African continent. They regard this path as the easiest and most justifiable one to topple Mohamed Siad Barre's shaky regime. Moreover, the rebel leaders regard it as the only honorable way of bringing about democracy in Somalia.

But might not this stance conceal ill-intentioned motives? There seems to be another power struggle in progress on the other side of the coin. To date, all the armed groups have been exclusively engaged in armed struggle. All the rebel groups in the country have built their power bases on ideological and tribal considerations. But in Somalia today, the famous personalities are not on the side of the armed rebels. On the contrary, they are none other than the conservative oppositionists who published the Mogadishu manifesto.

The leaders of the armed rebels know perfectly well that if independent elections are held in Somalia, they stand little chance in a competition for leadership with this conservative group, which includes those highly-respected national politicians. Therefore, the tribal power base cannot be relied on. The question, therefore, is: What political advantage can the rebels gain by organizing a coup? A rebel-organized coup can only usher in another endless civil war and a bitter struggle between the tribally based rebel groups, which now number five. An endless tribal conflict would be the greatest political catastrophe for Somalia.

The last question to be asked is: Is it inevitable for the people to be ruled alternately by each group claiming to be liberators or freedom fighters who came to power by means of a military or rebel-organized coup, or is there an alternative?

### Various Groups Claim Control

*EA0301200891 Moscow International Service in Amharic 1500 GMT 2 Jan 91*

[Commentary by Aleksandr Mikhaylov; from "A Few Out of Many" program]

[Text] Although the Somali foreign minister, Mohamed Ahmad Aden, has said in Qatar that his government is in full control of the situation in the country, eyewitnesses say that the situation in Mogadishu is chaotic. Aleksandr Mikhaylov has filed the following commentary on the situation:

The cause of the eruption of the current complex problem is the Mogadishu Government's campaign in December to root out the armed rebels. At the same time, some members of the United Somali Congress [USC], which was 50 km away from Mogadishu, infiltrated the city. At this moment Siad Barre is in his strong fortification near Mogadishu airport. While the government is intending to capture and disarm them, the USC members began a decisive battle. Last Sunday, that is 30 December, a heavy battle, in which heavy weapons were used, broke out. At least 500 people are estimated to have been killed in the battle. The rebels claim that they control most of Mogadishu and that it will be only a few hours before they capture Siad Barre. They have said their aim is to establish a government of national unity that includes all opposition parties.

On Tuesday, however, it was realized that it is not easy to capture Barre's fortification and the airport. Moreover, the Somali radio station, which the rebels claimed to have taken, broadcast the information minister's call to the people to cooperate with the government and attack the bandits.

We think this is why the Somali foreign minster, who is in Qatar, said his government is in full control of the situation in the country. Of course, it is not true to claim that the government controls the situation fully, while most of the Somali territory is in the hands of the rebels. In addition, a fierce battle is going on in Mogadishu. Mogadishu residents have not yet given much support to the rebels. This has also given some hope to Somali officials. According to observers, the war is between the Haawiye and Marehan tribes. Marehan is Siad Barre's tribe. That is why the majority of Mogadishu residents, who do not belong to these tribes, do not want to take part in the battle.

The USC's infiltration of Mogadishu and its strength has come as a great surprise to the government and to the other opposition forces. An unnamed U.S. State Department official stated that it is difficult to tell what is going on in Somalia and who is controlling what. We also think that it is difficult to tell who is controlling what in Somalia.

### Pluralism Forced Upon Government

*EA2612174090 Moscow International Service in Somali 1600 GMT 25 Dec 90*

[Text] The government of the Somali Democratic Republic [SDR] has announced that political pluralism will be introduced in the country. This was announced by the SDR interior minister. There will be no limit to the number of political parties.

Commentators believe these changes have been forced on the government by oppositionists. Agency reports say fighting is continuing on the outskirts of the capital between the rebels and the government forces.

## South Africa's ANC Holds Consultative Conference

*MB2112104490 Moscow in English to Southern Africa 1830 GMT 20 Dec 90*

[Commentary by Aleksandr Fedorov on the African National Congress consultative conference]

[Text] I am trying to imagine an average South African citizen to whom politicians and statisticians refer to for drawing their general conclusions. I mean that I try to imagine two average statistical individuals, a black and a white, because in that country the racial indication is still common. So, which must be their reaction to the consultative conference of the African National Congress?

The white citizen, who all his life heard about the African National Congress as a villain, and who only recently learned that this organization also wants peace, is somewhat confused because the conference has put forward an ultimatum that to late next April [as heard] the government should meet all basic demands advanced by the African National Congress.

The African citizen, who for all his life did not trust the promises by the authorities, and who only recently got convinced that there are different presidents, would be deep in thought over many things either. [sentence as heard] On the one hand, he will not deny the fact that the situation under Frederik de Klerk changed for the better. But the Africans cannot but be worried by the fact that not everything goes so smoothly and, which is the main thing, not so fast as they would like things to be.

The big gap between the lifestyles of the white and the black continues widening. The unknown things are: What will be the living and material conditions of those returning to South Africa? [Words indistinct] not only support those offended. After weighing of things in such a way, the Africans will undoubtedly approve the demands by the African National Congress to accelerate the process of dismantling the apartheid system.

These are two points of view objectively reflecting the situation in the present South Africa. Who knows? Maybe the delegates to the consultative conference of the African National Congress have to take into consideration even more points of view. To all appearances—and a statement by the leader of the military wing of the African National Congress, Chris Hani, confirms this—there are heated debates inside the organization between the moderate members and the radicals.

To somewhat balance the situation, it was decided to boost protest actions: strikes, boycotts, and so on. I think that different points of view in the ANC leadership, and in the approach to the economic sanctions, were also important. As is known, at the conference the ANC president, Oliver Tambo, said that the time came to review the question of these sanctions. After the debate, however, a resolution was adopted appealing that the world community retain sanctions until the complete dismantling of apartheid. All these facts do not contribute to creating a quiet atmosphere for continuing a productive dialogue, said the government.

The extreme rightists and the conservatives use primarily the ANC demands in their attacks on the president. The authorities' slow actions will be criticized by the Africans. Anticipating this, the government assessed critically the resolution of the ANC conference, and at the same time announced that it lifts the responsibility [as heard] for those political refugees who left the country without permit before 8 October. Now they may return home, not fearing persecutions on the part of the authorities.

Putting aside subjective views of the process and resolutions of the ANC consultative conference, it will, I think, go down in history not only as the first-ever such kind of event under legal conditions. It precisely defined the position, called the Africans to unity—which is very important under the conditions of disunity and even armed confrontation between the ANC and Inkatha. And the ultimatum date will remind us of how fast the time is going away, of the fact that everything is important for full-scale talks.

There is the liberation of all political prisoners, the end to persecutions, the effective measures to put an end to bloodbaths in the African settlements. All this, no doubt, is in the interest of the average statistical black and the average statistical white citizens, for it is in the interest of the whole nation.

## South African Trade Group To Visit Apr 1991

*LD2512151690 Moscow TASS in English 1432 GMT 25 Dec 90*

[By TASS correspondent Sergey Kulik]

[Text] Maseru December 25 TASS—"The first official South African trade delegation will visit the USSR and

Poland from April 14-28," the Johannesburg BUSINESS DAY newspaper reported on Monday [24 Dec]. The visit if sponsored by the South African Foreign Trade Association. Taking part in it will be representatives of 15 companies, interested in signing contracts with Soviet partners, including such firms as the "Allied Bank", "Dimension Data", "Klokner-Bekorite", "General Food Industries and Industrial Comodities".

The newspaper notes that there are broad opportunities for expanding the Soviet export to South Africa of mining equipment, metals and minerals, automobiles, medicines and textiles. In exchange, the Soviet Union could import from South Africa glass goods, medicines, food products and consumer goods.

If trade talks between the two countries are successful, the direct sea route from the Mozambique port of Maputo to Leningrad could be used to ship export and import goods.

"Although private companies in the USSR are now issued import licences," chief of the association's International Department Mike Weysie said, "We are very uncertain about payments."

### U.S. Involvement in Angolan Peace Talks Viewed

*MB2112081290 Moscow in English to Southern Africa 1830 GMT 20 Dec 90*

[Yuriy Zhuravlev commentary]

[Text] Just a few years ago the mere appearance in Luanda of a congressman from the United States would have caused a sensation. Today Mr. Solarz's arrival is viewed as quite commonplace, for the United States and the Soviet Union are cooperating closely to achieve a political settlement in Angola. It is within the framework of such cooperation between the two great powers that the American congressman has arrived in Luanda.

The aim of his mission is to discuss with the warring sides concrete moves to speed up a peaceful settlement to the internal conflict. Mr. Solarz is to hold talks first with the leaders of Angola, and then he'll also go to neighboring Zaire to meet the leader of UNITA [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola], Jonas Savimbi. Mr. Solarz is the author of the amendment which started United States military aid to the Angolan UNITA opposition group.

Meantime, another group of Cuban servicemen returned a few days ago from Luanda to Havana. I can well imagine you will wonder what connection there is between this report and Mr. Solarz's visit. Well, there is a connection, and a close one at that. The pullout of the Cuban military contingent from Angolan territory began right after the signing in 1988 in New York of a three-sided agreement between Angola, Cuba and South Africa, with the mediation of the USSR and the United States. The agreement was designed to ensure a settlement in South-West Africa.

I would like to briefly remind you of the basic four components of the document: first, withdrawal of South African troops from the territory of Angola; the return home of the 50,000-strong Cuban military contingent; independence for Namibia; and, finally, a political settlement of the armed Angolan conflict.

Two years have passed since the agreement was signed in New York. The South African troops have left Angola a long time ago. Namibia is finally independent. By now, 40,000 Cuban servicemen have returned home, and the last Cuban soldiers to leave Angola by mid-1991 [as heard]. But the Cuban side has stated, on agreement with the Government of Angola, that it can complete the pullout before the time limit set in the agreement if the political settlement of the Angolan conflict would make visible progress.

Practically speaking, all the outside aspects of the conflict have been settled; only a few internal ones remain. The accumulated mutual suspicion and distrust have been cleared to a considerable extent. Credit for this is due to no small extent to the United States, the Soviet Union, and Portugal.

At the recent meetings and consultations in Washington, the basic problems of the internal settlement have been decided. That includes UNITA involvement in the country's political affairs, the formation of a united army that would not be involved in politics and would include UNITA servicemen, and the holding of elections under international control in the very near future.

As to the agreement on a cease-fire, everything has been fully coordinated except for a few technical details. Reports coming from Angola are optimistic. The sides are prepared to hold the next, sixth, round of talks in Lisbon. Perhaps after that round we will be able to talk of the Angolan conflict in the past tense. Perhaps the number six will be a lucky one for Angola and it will be the last step on the way to long-awaited peace.

## East Europe

### Albanian Leader Views 'Complex' Internal Crisis

*PM2812160590 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 28 Dec 90 First Edition p 1*

[Report by TASS correspondent V. Sevryukov: "R. Alia Speech"]

[Text] Belgrade, 27 Dec—Albanian leader Ramiz Alia has described the sociopiolitical situation prevailing in the country as "very complex, economically difficult, and uncertain." He stated this on Wednesday at a meeting of the party aktiv at the Albanian Workers Party

[AWP] Central Committee devoted to the first multiparty elections to the People's Assembly (legislature) of Albania, scheduled for 10 February 1991.

Citing Tirana television, TANJUG reports that Alia noted a "particular feature" of the actions of the destructive elements during the recent disturbances in the Albanian cities of Shkoder, Durres, Kavaje, and Elbasan. In his opinion, TANJUG notes, the disturbances were stage-managed "both from within and without the country," which is impeding the reforms and democratic processes. In Alia's words, the destructive forces are trying to depreciate what has been created over 45 years "by the blood of all the citizens of Albania." "But the party and the people will not allow the achievements to be destroyed," he stated.

Dwelling separately on relations with Yugoslavia, R. Alia noted that Albania's stance vis-a-vis the Autonomous Province of Kosovo, which forms part of the Yugoslav Republic of Serbia, has remained "constant and unchanged." "The present situation in Kosovo is not the result of interference or territorial claims on the part of Albania. It is the result of the flouting of the Albanian people's rights, mainly by Serbian chauvinists." "We," R. Alia concluded, "have always responded and continue to respond to the demands of our Albanian brothers in Kosovo."

### Ryzhkov Congratulates New Bulgarian Premier

*LD2012205290 Moscow TASS in English 2041 GMT 20 Dec 90*

[Text] Moscow December 20 TASS—Soviet Prime Minister Nikolay Ryzhkov has sent a congratulatory message to Dimitr Popov, who was elected chairman of the Council of Ministers of Bulgaria, and wished him effective work on this post.

The message expressed hope that traditional friendship and cooperation between the USSR and Bulgaria would continue to develop fruitfully in new conditions in the interests of the two nations and would promote the consolidation of positive processes in Europe and the implementation of key agreements reached at the Paris summit of member states of the Conference for Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE).

### CSFR 1990 Foreign Policy Results Reviewed

*91P50066A Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN in Russian 20 Dec 90 First Edition p 3*

[Article by TASS correspondent I. Shamshin: "Striving for Stabilization"]

[Text] Prague, 19 Dec (TASS correspondent I. Shamshin). CSFR foreign minister I. Dienstbier summed up the results of Czechoslovakia's 1990 foreign policy. Speaking on Tuesday before members of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the People's Chamber and the Chamber of Nationalities of the Federal Assembly, he informed them first of all about the withdrawal of Soviet troops from the CSFR, pointing out that as of now 72 percent of the army subunits have been withdrawn. More than 20,000 Soviet soldiers and officers still remain on Czechoslovak territory. They will leave the country by next July, Dienstbier said.

The minister characterized relations with the Soviet Union as poor and noted the Czechoslovak desire for their stabilization, including a dialog at the highest level. Speaking about the Warsaw Pact, Dienstbier expressed the opinion that this organization would conclude its activity by 1992, when the process of disarmament would be implemented on an all-European level.

### Last Soviet Battalion Leaves Czechoslovakia

*PM2412132190 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 24 Dec 90 Second Edition p 4*

[Report by PRAVDA correspondent A Krushinskiy: "Battalion Was Moving Home"]

[Text] Prague, 23 Dec—"Unloading station is Uzhgorod-3. Speed on the march 40 kilometers an hour, distance between vehicles 50 meters...."

Now in accordance with the regiment commander's order the engines of the powerful tractors roared and the last battalion of the artillery guards regiment of the renowned Irkutsk-Pinsk motorized rifle division yesterday, to the strains of a march, moved out of the Slovak city of Roznava East to the USSR border, which was a stone's throw away.

...Less than 10 months have elapsed since the signing of the Soviet-Czechoslovak intergovernment agreement on the withdrawal of Soviet troops and yet already less than 20,000 of our servicemen remain on CSFR territory. This entire complicated operation which provides for the solution of complex questions of a material and legal nature is, it may be said, being implemented at a rapid pace. For the sake of comparison, I was told here that the Americans intend to allocate... four years for the withdrawal of just two divisions from South Korea.

But the Czechoslovak mass media have sometimes manifested an inclination to stoke the atmosphere around the Soviet troops' withdrawal. Their favorite themes include the damage they have caused to the environment and their poor mutual relations with the population. It was all the pleasanter to observe now the withdrawal of the last battalion of the regiment, which proceeded in an atmosphere of dignity and sincere mutual good will.

Incidentally, this event is by no means of local significance, since now there is not a single Soviet military combat unit remaining on Slovak territory. That is why guests from Bratislava and Prague—representatives of the legislative commission for monitoring the withdrawal of Soviet troops, members of the Slovak National Council and the Slovak government, and representatives of the Armed Forces—came to this ceremony, which

merged organically with the pre-Christmas festivities. Colonel General E. Vorobyev, commander of the Central Group of Forces, and B. Pankin, USSR ambassador to the CSFR, took part in the ceremonial farewells.

A ceremonial meeting was held on the territory of the military township, until yesterday occupied by the Soviet unit. The speakers spoke of the Soviet servicemen's good relations with the local population—their participation in bringing in the harvest and providing amenities for the city. The Roznava mayor's speech was particularly warm. There were many moving scenes: For instance, when the local children started presenting the lined up soldiers with presents.

The withdrawal of this battalion was initially planned for the middle of January 1991 but the command of the Central Group of Forces decided to speed up the operation. Major General S. Nadyovich [name as transliterated], who heads the directorate to back up the Soviet troops' withdrawal on the Czechoslovak side, noted in a talk with me that the withdrawal is being implemented according to plan and that mutual relations between Soviet and Czechoslovak officers are exclusively correct. All the questions and problems which arise are resolved promptly in a spirit of mutual understanding.

## Czechoslovak Leader Notes Hopes for New Year

*PM0401151191 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 4 Jan 91 Union Edition p 6*

[Report by IZVESTIYA correspondent L. Kornilov: "Vaclav Havel's Second Year"]

[Excerpts] Prague—A year ago, on the eve of 1990, playwright and dissident Vaclav Havel was elected president of Czechoslovakia. He began his New Year's message to the people by saying: You and I were long assured that our homeland had enjoyed uninterrupted prosperity, but in no way can it be be described as prosperous.

A year has passed, and on 1 January 1991 Havel spoke to television viewers in the following terms:

"It has become clear that the legacy of past decades is considerably worse than we imagined or could imagine in the joyous atmosphere of the first weeks of freedom. New problems arise daily, and daily we can see for ourselves how intertwined they are...."

After dwelling on the negative phenomena existing in Czechoslovak society today, Havel cited an impressive list of positive achievements: the withdrawal of Soviet troops, which is drawing to a close; the holding of free elections; new laws; world respect; freedom of expression, assembly, entry, and exit; the renewal of religious life; the drafting of economic reforms, which precisely "today (that is to say, 1 January—L.K.) are coming into effect"; and the beginning of the creation of a genuine, viable federation.

"As you can see," Havel said, "we have managed to do more in one single year than in the previous 41. But that is still not enough, and our main task is only starting.... We are moving from our domestic reconstruction plan to actual reconstruction." [passage omitted].

Speaking about the CSFR's foreign policy, Havel expressed the wish for the Warsaw Pact Political Consultative Committee to meet as quickly as possible in order to eliminate all its military structures, including the Joint Command, as already agreed by its members. The CSFR president expressed his certainty that Czechoslovakia will succeed in becoming a member of the Council of Europe in January (or February). He reported that the CSFR would also be glad to become a full member of the EC in the future. "We are also seeking to cooperate closely with the North Atlantic pact, although we do not have it in mind to join for the time being." Vaclav Havel stressed commitment to the Paris charter and pointed out Czechoslovakia's desire to coordinate its actions, particularly with its immediate neighbors—Hungary and Poland—in the course of joining the new European structure.

The president urged people not to lose faith and hope and to withstand the difficult trials in store for the country.

## Poland Endorses Economic Agreement for 1991

*LD0301222391 Moscow TASS in English 2154 GMT 3 Jan 91*

[By TASS correspondent Igor Galkin]

[Text] Warsaw January 4 TASS—The Polish Government on Thursday endorsed an agreement on economic relations with the USSR, which was signed in Moscow on November 13, 1990.

The agreement defines the principles of the transition from January 1, 1991 to settlements in freely convertible currency and at world prices in all areas of economic relations between the two countries.

As for the terms for reciprocal supplies of goods, payment and prices, they will be set by the two countries' enterprises, organisations and firms during the conclusion of contracts. They will also be responsible for the fulfillment of obligations.

The agreement also envisages barter trade without settlements in hard currency.

Economic relations between the two countries will, from now on, be built on the principles accepted in international practice.

As for settlements in mutual debts, negotiations on this issue continue and a new agreement will be signed.

### Ambassador to Poland Meets With Walesa

*LD2812185190 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1600 GMT 28 Dec 90*

[Text] Lech Walesa, president of the Republic of Poland, today received USSR Ambassador to Poland Kashlev, who handed him a message of congratulations from USSR President Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev regarding his election to the post of head of state.

Walesa and Kashlev touched on the prospects for developing Polish-Soviet relations on a new basis and in particular, the conclusion of a new treaty of cooperation and good-neighborliness and the expansion of mutually beneficial links between the two countries in the commercial and economic sphere.

Lech Walesa told journalists after the meeting that the discussion was on how best to construct Poland's relations with the Soviet Union, as a whole, and with its individual republics. Problems that arise must, in his view, be tackled in a spirit of friendship and mutual understanding.

The president announced that he conveyed greetings to Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev, wishing him success in implementing the exceptionally crucial tasks facing him.

### Media Reaction to Polish Presidency Noted

*LD2412223690 Moscow International Service in Polish 1600 GMT 24 Dec 90*

[Commentary by station commentator Vasiliy Lesovik]

[Text] Lech Walesa has already been sworn in as president. All the leading media in the Soviet Union have noted the event. The first president with a worker's past. A winner of the Nobel prize. Virtually a unique case of its kind. I can also say with full responsibility that it is probably going to be unprecedented in Poland's history. I do not intend to reflect here on the Walesa phenomenon as a workers' leader and then as an uncompromising politician gaining more and more experience. At the moment of his appearance at Belweder, all those things are left outside the palace. We can look forward to new pages of his biography, ones he should write from scratch, directly and closely linked to his personal responsibility for the future of the whole country and the whole society. One thing is without doubt. From the moment Lech Walesa takes the president's office, a new period begins in Poland's life.

Many people are now wondering what this period will be like: Will it accord with the hopes of all Poles? The latest elections have shown that there are deep divisions in Polish society, so quite rightly the questions arise whether the new president will succeed in consolidating society with a view to speeding up positive processes—which is something he actively proclaimed during the election campaign—who is going to be in the team, of the executors of his ideas, and what will this look like in practice. Similar questions also occur regarding the future course of Poland's foreign policy. Undoubtedly Poland is going to strive to strengthen its position in the European arena and will pursue active policies with its neighbors east and west in order to attain the position of a partner who counts. In connection with this it is worth noting the new president's statement made during the solemn swearing-in ceremony, in which he said he would develop relations with the neighboring Soviet republics, the Ukraine, Belorussia, Lithuania, and Russia. To some extent this accords with the concept of Poland's eastern policy worked out quite recently by the country's legislators.

Repeating President Lech Walesa's words about striving to fashion an atmosphere of liking and cooperation, one can state that both the entire Soviet Union and the individual republics for their part are ready to continue and develop the entirety of the valuable achievements accumulated in the fields of political, economic and cultural cooperation.

### Pollution Research With Finland Started

*LD0201163191 Moscow TASS in English 1541 GMT 2 Jan 91*

[By TASS correspondent Vladimir Dodonov]

[Text] Helsinki January 2 TASS—Finnish and Soviet scientists have begun to implement a large-scale joint research project to study the impact of atmospheric pollution on the vegetation of the two countries' northern areas.

The bulk of work will be done by the Academy of Finland and the Kola branch of the Soviet Academy of Sciences.

They plan to study the role of atmospheric pollution in the determination of the vegetational environment and to research into the mechanism of the impact of pollution on plants, as well as into the economic aspects of various nature conversation measures.

Until recently, environmental pollution was reckoned the only cause of the deteriorating state of the vegetation of northern areas, while the role of such factors as natural fluctuations in plant growth, climatic changes, and the impact of pests were practically ignored.

This made it difficult to properly organise work to combat forest diseases, particularly in areas that are remote from pollution sources.

Scientists will focus on methods to restore vegetation in polluted zones, as the amount of harmful discharges into the atmosphere are considerably reduced.

"Soviet scientists have shown great interest in this project and stated their readiness to help implement it. I believe that we shall be able to successfully accomplish this work, which will furnish a good basis for further research and practical economic measures," Finnish

Professor Erkki Haukioja, one of the directors of the project, told a news conference here today.

### Yazov Sends Greetings to Yugoslav Counterpart

*91UM0207B Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 22 Dec 90 First Edition p 1*

[Greetings message from Defense Minister Yazov to SFRY Federal Secretary for National Defense Kadijevic]

[Text] To Comrade General of the Army Veljko Kadijevic, federal secretary for national defense of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia

On the occasion of the 49th anniversary of the Yugoslav People's Army I send you and all Yugoslav troops greetings and sincere congratulations in the name of the USSR Armed Forces and on my own behalf.

The troops of the Soviet Armed Forces highly value the relations of friendship and cooperation between the armies of our countries, which traditionally serve the interests of the Soviet and Yugoslav peoples and the cause of peace and universal security.

I wish you and all the personnel of the Yugoslav People's Army the greatest success in strengthening the defense capability of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

[Signed] Marshal of the Soviet Union D. Yazov, USSR minister of defense.

## West Europe

### Diplomat Discusses German Ties, Troop Withdrawal

*LD2512224890 Moscow TASS in English 1855 GMT 25 Dec 90*

[By TASS correspondents Vladimir Petrov and Sergey Ryabikin]

[Text] Moscow December 25 TASS—All agreements signed between the Soviet Union and Germany in 1990, are in the Soviet legislature and will be discussed in January, Ambassador at Large Aleksandr Bondarenko told a news conference here today.

Bondarenko noted that the Soviet Union cannot approach relations with the united Germany mechanically, simply merging relations of the Soviet Union with East and West Germany.

Some 400 agreements that existed between the Soviet Union and East Germany are being revised. It is important that the German Government supported enterprises, which had close cooperation ties with Soviet partners, Bondarenko said.

Speaking about Soviet troop withdrawal from East Germany, Bondarenko noted that the process is closely connected with reductions in Germany's Armed Forces and with creating social conditions for Soviet servicemen and their families on Soviet territory. Particular attention is being paid to "reasonable spending of money given by the German side", he said.

Bondarenko believes that the agreement on Soviet troops pullout "does not place them in a worse position than they had in the former German Democratic Republic. They will have conditions for living and combat training similar to those NATO troops have in West Germany".

### Additional Loan Sought From Germany

*LD2912154790 Moscow Cental Television First Program Network in Russian 1415 GMT 29 Dec 90*

[From the "Television News Service" program]

[Text] It was reported today that our country is seeking from the FRG additional loans of two billion deutsche marks [DM]. As you know, we have already obtained a loan of DM5 billion from the FRG.

### FRG Reaction to Shevardnadze Decision Viewed

*PM0301151191 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 3 Jan 91 Union Edition p 6*

[Report by IZVESTIYA correspondent Ye. Bovkun: "Toward a New Europe Through a New Germany" ]

[Text] Bonn—The treaty regulating the external aspects of German unification could become a blueprint for overcoming the split in Europe. All the more so since the earlier formula of limited participation—"two-plus-four"—has to all intents and purposes been exhausted. Despite the persisting social and psychological contrasts between the eastern and western laender, the new Germany now enjoys full sovereignty and equality in relations with the states formerly allied in the anti-Hitler coalition. By ratifying the treaty, the United States, Britain, and France have drawn a line under the past.

The structure is short of one final detail: The treaty has yet to be ratified by the Soviet legislature. Obviously this will take place after the USSR Supreme Soviet deputies have thoroughly studied the corresponding recommendation document prepared by the Foreign Ministry.

Bonn never doubted the consistency of Soviet foreign policy even after the drama of Shevardnadze's resignation.

Major figures, starting with Kohl and Genscher, and lesser-known representatives of political and social forces have expressed deep regret at Shevardnadze's decision, because he enjoyed tremendous popularity in the FRG, but they refuse to believe that the Soviet Union would sacrifice perestroyka's external achievements abroad.

Germans' confidence in the consistency of USSR foreign policy within the framework of perestroyka, which began with the deideologization of interstate relations, can be explained first and foremost by their huge interest in the success of our reforms. At times it seems to me that there is a greater concentration of such interest in the FRG than in our own country. Here people are convinced that we will not act against our own interests.

First, because there is simply no other way out for us. A conscious return to the cold war would isolate us hopelessly from the European home, and the rise of Kremlin "hawks" would inevitably encourage "hawks" in the White House.

Second, the discovery of the simple truth that "security means no more weapons of our own and fewer weapons against us" opened the way in principle for agreement with NATO: In Paris, for the first time in Europe's history, an agreement between the two blocs was signed.

Third, any attempt to sabotage the Helsinki process of building confidence and developing cooperation would immediately reflect on our economy, which simply cannot be reformed without the aid of the world community.

The only thing worrying the FRG is the increasing right-wing pressure on the Soviet president and the possible influx of refugees from the east which threatens to swamp the German "islands of prosperity." But what about us? Should we be concerned about the process of German unification? More often than not, fears on this score are linked with an unwillingness to face the truth. The level of democracy and social protection attained in the FRG in recent decades is the result of this society's vitality and humanity.

It is a country with a highly developed economy and the Common Market's lowest inflation rate, and it has taken on the difficult task of raising living standards in the new laender as rapidly as possible while simultaneously assisting Eastern Europe and the Third World. I am confident that Germany will achieve this aim, and not just because the German currency is the most stable in the EEC. The Germans' own experience has proved that it is possible to overcome division on a continental scale. The FRG's interests (from ecology to the struggle against organized crime) are interwoven with those of its neighbors in a way that guarantees that the Germans will not deviate from the path marked out. The new Germany represents a real bridge toward the new Europe.

### Yakovlev Rejects Using Economic, Military Pressure

*AU2412131990 Cologne Deutschlandfunk Network in German 1200 GMT 24 Dec 90*

[Text] In the opinion of Yakovlev, adviser of the Soviet president, the solution of worldwide problems requires a new psychology in international politics. He told the Berlin TAGESZEITUNG that one must try to renounce economic and military pressure, in order to prevent the explosion of aggressive nationalism. Nothing must be forced on other countries any longer. He thinks that the role of Messiah no longer befits the USSR, the Soviet politician said. He would like it if the values of democracy and economic freedom were to finally win out.

### Ryzhkov Congratulates Austrian Chancellor

*PM2112105990 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 20 Dec 90 Union Edition p 7*

[Message congratulating Austrian Chancellor F. Vranitzy on his reappointment from USSR Premier N. Ryzhkov on his reappointment; date not given]

[Text] To His Excellency Mr. Franz Vranitzky, federal chancellor of the Republic of Austria

Esteemed Mr. Federal Chancellor!

Accept my congratulations and best wishes on your reappointment to the high post of head of government of the Republic of Austria.

I express the hope that relations between the Soviet Union and neutral Austria, which are imbued with the spirit of concord, cooperation, and good-neighborliness, will continue to develop successfully for the good of our countries' peoples and in the interests of strengthening peace and stability on the continent.

[Signed] N. Ryzhkov.

### Soviet-Cypriot Venture Called 'Unlawful'

*PM2712162990 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 23 Dec 90 Second Edition p 5*

[Unattributed report: "At the CPSU Central Committee Press Center"]

[Text] On 27 October 1990 the CPSU Central Committee Press Center announced the party leadership's reaction to the unlawful operations of the Soviet-Cypriot venture "Putnik," which dealt with foreign partners on the CPSU Central Committee's behalf without any authorization. The USSR Prosecutor's Office reported that, having checked the facts, it has instituted criminal proceedings against officials of the "Putnik" joint venture.

### Semenova Attends French Communist Party Congress

*PM2112151990 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 19 Dec 90 Second Edition p 4*

[TASS report: "Congress Opens"]

[Excerpts] Saint-Ouen (Seine-Saint-Denis), 18 Dec—The 28th French Communist Party [PCF] Congress opened today in this suburb of the French capital. [passage omitted]

A CPSU delegation, headed by G.V. Semenova, Politburo member and secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, is attending the congress. [passage omitted]

The CPSU Central Committee Secretariat has send a greetings message to the 27th PCF Congress. The CPSU delegation also handed over a message from USSR President and CPSU Central Committee General Secretary M.S. Gorbachev to PCF Secretary General G. Marchais wishing the congress successful work and congratulating the French Communists on the party's 70th anniversary, which will be celebrated in a few days' time.

### Gorbachev Sends Greetings to Italian Premier

*LD2812123190 Moscow World Service in English 1200 GMT 28 Dec 90*

[Text] USSR President Mikhail Gorbachev has sent a message to the prime minister of Italy, Giulio Andreotti.

He assesses highly the role of the Italian government in the European Community. The president thanked the countries of the community for their wish to give urgent humanitarian assistance to the Soviet Union. Their decision on giving such help was taken at a recent session of the European Council in Rome. The message also expresses the desire of the Soviet Union to go on promoting contacts with the countries in the European Community in an atmosphere of trust and on the basis of mutually advantageious cooperation.

### Norwegian Premier Sends Message to Gorbachev

*LD0401111291 Moscow TASS in English 1056 GMT 4 Jan 91*

[Text] Moscow January 4 TASS—Soviet First Deputy Foreign Minister Anatoliy Kovalev today received Norwegian Ambassador to the USSR Dagfinn Stenseth who conveyed a message from Norwegian Prime Minister Gro Harlem Brundtland to President Mikhail Gorbachev.

## Latin America & Caribbean

### Deputy Foreign Minister Views Latin American Ties

*LD3112153390 Moscow World Service in English 1310 GMT 31 Dec 90*

[Text] In an interview with Radio Moscow's reporter, Sergey Koshkin, the USSR deputy foreign minister, Viktor Komplektov, has reviewed tendencies and considered the outlook for relations with countries in Latin America.

Soviet foreign policy had two priorities over the past few years: Soviet-American relations and European affairs. After 1986 the Soviet Union and Latin America have virtually discovered each other anew. They have taken a fresh look at many foreign policy problems and reconsidered the list of priorities. The coincidence of positions and tendencies as well as changes in the home scenes have added to that mutual interest. A comprehensive political dialogue and sober revision of old principles have made it possible for Soviet diplomats to make some specific steps. The visits to the Soviet Union paid by the presidents of Brazil and Argentina can be regarded as a great success. The summit talks went far beyond the bounds of bilateral relations.

I must say, went on Viktor Komplektov, that relations between the Soviet Union and Latin American countries have become an integral part of international relations on the whole, (?and cannot) be seen as a purely regional affair. Whereas before our diplomats encountered serious problems, due to confrontation with the United States, today the situation is different. Everybody has had serious gains, the superpowers and Latin America, too. The settlement in Nicaragua is an example of cooperation between the Soviet Union and the United States. The restoration of diplomatic relations with Chile and Honduras is a major success of Soviet-U.S. cooperation.

Asked about the outlook for next year, VIktor Komplektov said this: It is hard to make any certain forecasts, but I believe that our relations will remain dynamic. A great deal will depend on the international situation and on the situation in the Soviet Union, of course. As for Latin America, I am certain that we will normalize relations with several more countries, for instance Guatemala and Panama. The situation involving El Salvador and Paraguay is more uncertain. As soon as we have some indication of their readiness we will meet them halfway, however.

About the possibility of President Gorbachev's visit to Latin America in 1991, Viktor Komplektov said: Personally I would like that visit to take place very much. It could make our relations in many areas more specific. We are aware that the president is having a really hard time, however, and everything depends on the home problems. I do not believe that such a visit may take place in the first half of the year, although I am not in a position to set any dates.

### First Anniversary of Panama Invasion Viewed

*PY2512143490 Moscow in Spanish to Latin America 2300 GMT 20 Dec 90*

[Leonid Levchenko commentary]

[Text] The Panamanian Government has decided to commemorate the first anniversary of the U.S. invasion of Panama by declaring a day of national reflection. The decree issued by President Guillermo Endara states that the U.S. action was prompted by the dictatorial regime that ruled the country seriously harming it.

The Coordinating Committee for the Right to Life has a different opinion about the events that took place last year. This committee, made up of labor unions of public

employees, has decided to commemorate the first anniversary of the U.S. invasion by staging a huge demonstration called the Black March. This demonstration has the support of the students and the people who, in one way or another, have been harmed or lost their relatives in those days which for them were full of sorrow.

I recall that approximately one year ago, trying to justify the invasion of Panama, President George Bush said that his objective was to defend the lives of U.S. citizens, reestablish democracy, preserve the Canal agreements, and deliver General Noriega to the courts. The many questions that came up in those days are still unanswered. For example, how high was the cost in terms of Panamanian lives of this crude violation of international law, which is how the United Nations described the U.S. intervention in Panama?

The exact number of Panamanian casualties is still kept secret. Many dead Panamanians were buried secretly in common graves. Was the price of this democracy that Washington reestablished in Panama not a little too high?

When the United States invaded Panama, Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez said: We are witnessing yet another humiliation of Latin American peoples.

Undoubtedly U.S. armed actions in Panama were clearly at odds with the growing worldwide tendencies toward dialogue and political and diplomatic solutions to complex situations.

Let us take a look at the manner in which the international community coordinated its actions in response to Iraq's occupation of Kuwait. Only if Iraq fails to withdraw its forces from Kuwait will force be used. In fact, the use of force will have to be approved by the UN Security Council.

Some of our listeners have been comparing the concentration of U.S. troops in the Persian Gulf and the U.S. actions in Panama. I do not believe that such a comparison is fair.

In Panama the United States challenged the entire international community which is trying to develop its relations based on the principle of respect for the dignity of the nations. This intervention was viewed as a blantant violation of international law and the UN Charter. This is how the Soviet Government labeled the U.S. intervention. Right now the Soviet Union and the United States are trying to convince Iraq that it must respect international law and the UN Charter and withdraw its troops from the territories that it has occupied.

## 'Anti-Government Actions' in Nicaragua Criticized

*PY2912214490 Moscow Radio Peace and Progress in Spanish 0300 GMT 27 Dec 90*

[Marina Petrovskaya commentary]

[Text] Only very recently, when it became clear that no more blood would be shed in Sandino's fatherland and that the government had begun to adopt measures to establish a national accord and ensure economic progress, those of us who follow events in Central America, especially Nicaragua, were able to let out a sigh of relief. Until then we had thought that the process was irreversible.

The disarmament of the contras, the replacement of guns with plows, the political balance between the Sandinists and the government, the disagreements [passage indistinct] due to the dynamic position of both parties. It has turned out, however, that reports on the contras' dissatisfaction over the government's slow fulfillment of its promises have begun to appear. They are supported by the mayors of many Nicaraguan towns, and the conflict may not be just a local one. It could be a matter of well-coordinated anti-government actions sponsored by the rightist sector of the governing coalition headed by Vice President Virgilio Godoy. Godoy operated in the shadows at the beginning but now, as the saying goes, he has taken off his mask.

According to PRENSA LATINA reports based on articles from the Nicaraguan daily EL NUEVO DIARIO, Virgilio Godoy—who totally opposes President Violeta Barrios de Chamorro—has called on the die-hard Nicaraguan national forces to intensify their fight to seize power in 1991. Vice President Godoy's position has been supported by the mayor of (?only one) of Nicaragua's regions and by National Assembly deputies belonging to the National Alliance right-wing opposition.

In a recent meeting in the town of Esteli, [words indistinct] of President Chamorro to hand over power to Godoy, and threatened to go on a strike that [words indistinct] 12 Nicaraguan mayors. Addressing this group, Godoy urged companies, [words indistinct], churches, and schools to stage anti-government actions [words indistinct].

Forces for which democracy and national reconciliation are empty concepts are fighting to seize power. Guided by their outdated anti-Sandinist hatred, these forces are again ready to launch the country into a civil war just to eradicate all signs of the Sandinist revolution. The sector supporting Godoy has apparently decided to intensify its fight to seize power, taking advantage of the complicated atmosphere resulting from disagreements over Armed Forces matters.

I will remind our listeners that the National Assembly has decided to substantially reduce budget allocations for the Armed Forces and that this reduction will evidently result in the dismissal of an incredible number of military personnel. President Chamorro vetoed this decision because it was made too early and would destabilize the situation of the republic. Mrs. Chamorro's attitude has greatly upset the die-hard sectors of society. They were not upset about the fact that

this decision would prevent them from demilitarizing the country, but rather because most military men are Sandinists and the Army is still headed by former Defense Minister Humberto Ortega y Saavedra. This situation displeases the Godoy-supporting sector very much.

According to their plans, the extremists would be able to seize power if they could weaken the Sandinist Army, which supports the current president and ensures national stability, (?that is all). This is why they are threatening President Chamorro, whom they charge with having pro-Sandinist ideas similar to those of other members of her administration who support—as she does—the idea of achieving national reconciliation in Nicaragua.

### Nicaraguan President's Reconciliation Efforts Eyed

*PY0201003291 Moscow Radio Peace and Progress in Spanish 0300 GMT 31 Dec 90*

[Aleksey Pavlov commentary]

[Text] Nicaraguan President Violeta Barrios de Chamorro has called upon her fellow citizens to end violence once and for all, and to consolidate peace and democracy. Listen to a commentary on this matter by Aleksey Pavlov:

The year that ends was very significant for Nicaragua. After the 25 February general elections, the country had a new government. The contras were disarmed. The new government officials began to outline new plans for the recovery of the economy. These positive changes stem from the call made by President Chamorro. She said that the path Nicaragua must follow is not tyranny or authoritarianism, but national accord and democratic dialogue. She called upon her fellow citizens to safeguard the country's peaceful achievements, a call made at a very opportune time.

We can say, for instance, that the civil war sponsored by the gringo intervention has ended. Unfortunately, however, it is still too soon to talk about a climate of reconciliation. The civilian society is in no hurry to give up [words indistinct], and the contras, now ex-contras, are also far from handing over [words indistinct].

Over the last months of this year, in several areas of the country, from time to time, people have died of [word indistinct] The ex-contras have had no guarantees after war, and they have therefore repeatedly tried to seize by force some Sandinist government projects, especially those belonging to the cooperatives. [passage indistinct]

We are children of the same fatherland, Mrs. Chamorro said. This is unquestionable. There are reasons that [words indistinct] that as a result of clashes, with the use of weapons, 48 people have died over the past few weeks. They are children of the same fatherland.

The idea, then, is that the deaths of these people will serve as a warning, which does not seem to be. According to unanimous opinions by political observers, the environment in the country is obviously being destabilized by the excesses committed by the extremist wing of the ruling coalition, the National Opposition Alliance, which is headed by Vice President Virgilio Godoy.

In November, these people organized mass disorders in the departments of Chontales and Boaco, promoting political demands and even the dismissal of two ministers and of the chief of the Sandinist People's Army.

By then, analysts pointed out that the extremists not only criticize the people they want to be dismissed, but that they also aim at the president of the country. Today our opinion was confirmed.

The extremists also called upon the people to unhesitantly oppose the government of Mrs. Chamorro. The die-hard sectors have been called to fight to death with the purpose of achieving power in 1991, etc.

As you see, this year that ends was no easy task for Nicaragua. But anyhow, we can see that the people's optimism has not waned, despite the attempts by the right-wing sectors to disrupt the national accord process.

Mrs. Chamorro and her government are making every possible effort to achieve the reconciliation of the Nicaraguan families and to strengthen peace and democracy in the fatherland. On this matter the government has received the support and understanding of the major opposition force in the country. We are referring to the Sandinists.

This factor goes for the benefit of Nicaragua. It is what we friends of Sandino's fatherland long for.